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THE NEW
STATISTICAL ACCOUNT
OF
SCOTLAND.
VOL. XIII.

THE NEW
STATISTICAL ACCOUNT
OF
SCOTLAND.

BY
THE MINISTERS OF THE RESPECTIVE PARISHES, UNDER THE
SUPERINTENDENCE OF A COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIETY
FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE SONS AND
DAUGHTERS OF THE CLERGY.

VOL. XIII.

BANFF—ELGIN—NAIRN.

WILLIAM BLACKWOOD AND SONS,
EDINBURGH AND LONDON.

MDCCCXLV.

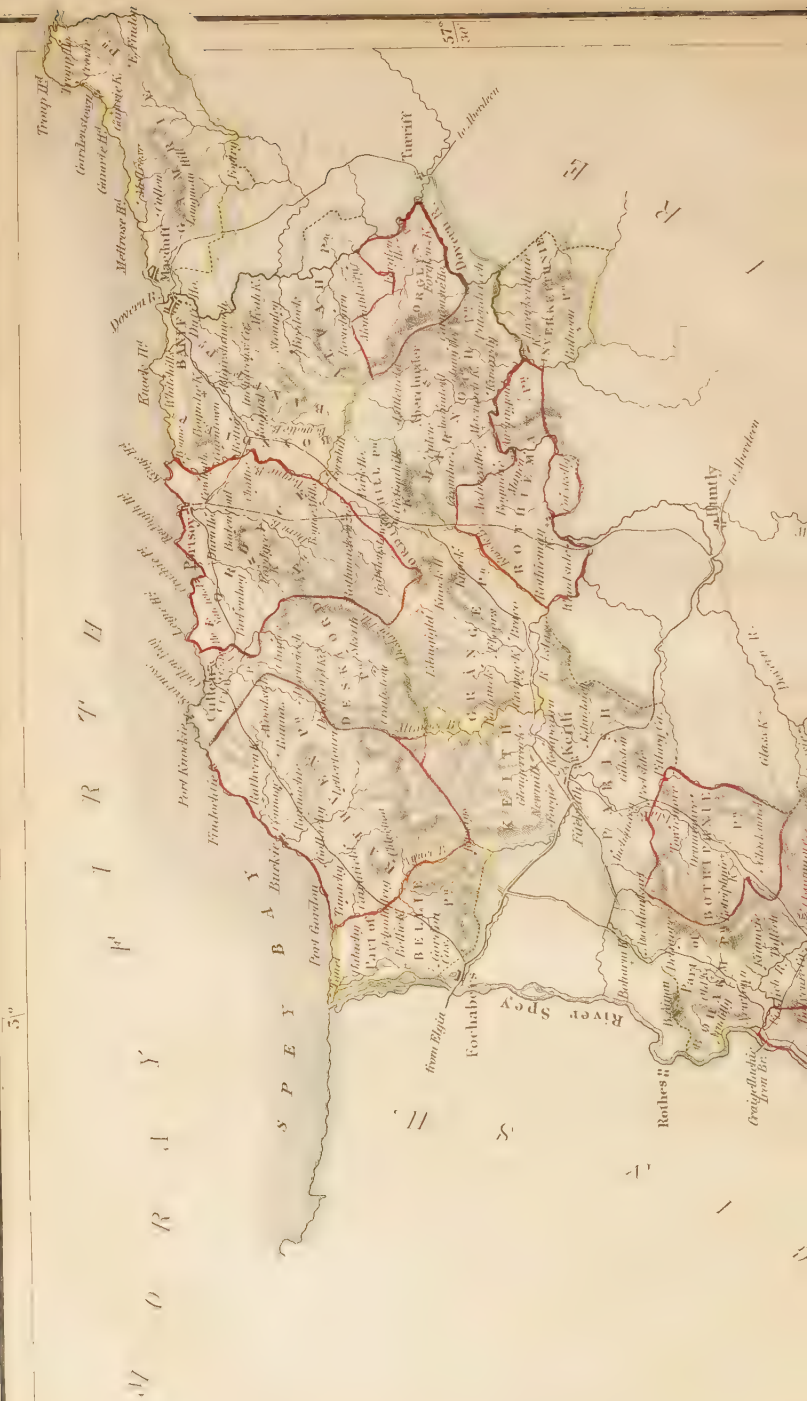
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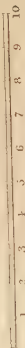
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PARISH OF BANFF.

PRESBYTERY OF FORDYCE, SYNOD OF ABERDEEN.

THE REV. FRANCIS WILLIAM GRANT, MINISTER.*

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—IN some ancient writings, the name of the town is given in each of the following ways,—Bainiffe, Boineffe, Bainffe, Banife, thus, most probably, drawing its origin from the word *Boyn*, the name of a district in which Banff is situated. *Boyn* (found in older writings under all the different orthographies of Boynd, Boyne, Boynde, Boin, Bouyn, Buyn, Buyn, Boyen,) is apparently the Gaelic word *Buinne*, a stream; and the district appears to have received its name from a stream passing through it, now called Burn of Boyne. On the bank of this stream, near its entrance into the sea, is the ancient castle of Boyne; and the neighbouring parish of Boyndie was formerly called Inverboynde or Inverboindy, *i. e.* mouth of Boyn. *Boyndie* is pronounced *Beendie* or *Bee-nie*,—resembling, in this respect, the Gaelic word, more than its present orthography would seem to indicate. The sound of *f* occurring in the word *Banff*, has probably originated from nothing more than a peculiarity of pronunciation,—as *Murray* is found to have been, at some former periods, spelled *Murreff*; *Strathisla*, *Strathileff*; *Bailiary*, *Bailiareff*.

Extent, Boundaries.—The greatest length of the parish is about $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles, its greatest breadth, which is nearly in the middle, about 2 miles. Its superficial extent is probably below 9 square miles. As indicated by the measures now given, it is in shape long and narrow, but with a *bend*, the inner side of which is towards the east: the inland extremity tapering to a point exactly like a leaf. It lies longitudinally from N. E. to S. W.

The parish is bounded on the north by the sea of the Moray Frith. The river Doveran, for a distance of about a mile and a half from its entrance into the sea, forms the eastern boundary. On the opposite side of the river, up to a rivulet falling into it about

* Drawn up, in the indisposition of the Minister, by Alexander Smith, M.A., author of the “Philosophy of Morals.”

half a mile from the sea, is the parish of Gamrie ; above the rivulet is the parish of King Edward. From the point where it ceases to join the river, the parish of Banff is bounded, to its most southerly extension, by the parish of Alva ; then, for a very small distance, by Marnoch ;—and, from that to the sea, by the parish of Boyndie, from which it is, in part at least, divided by the burn of that name.

Topographical Appearances.—In the lower end of the parish, the ground rises in the centre to an elevation of from 200 to 300 feet above the level of the sea, forming an eminence called the Gallowhill,* a prolongation of which stretches southerly, (but gradually descending, with a sweep,) concave towards the east. In the upper part of the parish, there are one or two eminences exceeding the Gallowhill in height, but, being less raised above the surface of the adjoining lower grounds, (there considerably higher than the level of the coast,) they present merely the appearance of slight swellings, and the surface there is altogether of the most uninteresting character. On the east side, the Gallowhill slopes down into a fine plain or meadow, of about a mile and a-half long, enclosed within a circular bend of the river. On the north side, the slope being more gradual, necessarily makes a more abrupt termination as it approaches the sea, and the shore consists, in the parts more adjacent to the river mouth, of precipitous rocky banks overhanging the beach ; more towards the west, there is left between the abrupt descent and the sea, a fine plain or links. On its western side, again, the Gallowhill declines gradually, but with occasional knolls and undulations, towards the burn of Boyndie.

Near the town and harbour, low rocks stretch out into the sea from the beach ; more to the west, and adjoining the mouth of the burn of Boyndie, is a sandy bay called Boyndie Bay. About midway between the extremes of the coast boundary, a rocky promontory is cleft in the middle into a sort of recess, (called the Elf Kirk,) about six or seven yards deep, and two yards broad, having perpendicular sides of rock to a considerable height. The recess has, however, rather the appearance of being scooped out by the action of the sea, than formed by the tearing asunder of its sides.

River and Scenery.—The river Doveran takes its rise in the parish of Cabrach, just on the confines between the counties of Aberdeen and Banff. Its source is 27 miles† due south of the mouth

* Anciently the place of execution.

† These distances (all reckoned by the straight line) are taken, somewhat loosely, from the scale on Irvine Ross's map.

of the Spey, which is 22 miles west of Banff—thus making the general course of the Doveran to be nearly north-east, and the distance from its source to its mouth 35 miles. But its course is far from a straight one. Thus, from Rothiemay to where it approaches Turriff, a distance of eleven miles, its course is, though with many meanderings, from west to east. From that point to Banff (9 miles) its course is from south to north. Nearly a mile above the point where, passing from between the parishes of Alva and King Edward, the Doveran first touches the parish of Banff, it enters, with a sudden turn, into a rocky gorge, whose precipitous sides crowned with wood are here joined by a semicircular stone arch. From this, the view stretches, above, into the open country, bounded by the hill of Alva; below, it is closed by a succession of naked rocks and steep wooded banks, among which the stream is seen to lose itself. The grounds on the margin of the river continue abrupt and precipitous, for nearly a mile farther down, when they gradually recede, opening out into a fine valley, round the eastern side of which the river takes a wide sweep, enclosing the plain on which Duff House is situated. Opposite to this plain, on the eastern side of the river, the ground is cut by the rivulet already mentioned, issuing from a woody ravine. Above, is a fine declivity, crowned on the top, and fringed along the water's edge, with wood; its surface diversified with breaks and swellings, and adorned with patches and rows of trees. Below, rises a green hill, presenting to the river and sea shore, a face of considerable height and steepness. The road from Edinburgh and Aberdeen winds round the verge of its southern inclination; and brings the traveller arriving in that direction, upon a prospect of rather uncommon attraction. On the extremity of the seaward slope of the hill, where it stretches out into a point skirting the bay, stands the town of Macduff. Just where the bend of the river commences, rises, on the western side, a high abrupt bank; on the summit of which, emerging from the gloom of a thicket, is a Gothic mausoleum, (the burying place of the Fife family)—near to which, on the verge of the bank, stands a funereal urn, containing bones dug up on the spot, of old the cemetery of a Carmelite monastery. A little above, on the same side, is a remarkable round hill, which tradition represents as being artificial and the work of penance, and which, now, crowned with a small summer-house or temple, forms a striking accessory to the beauty of the scene. In one or two places, small islands, covered with wood, separate the stream of the river into branches; and its whole course between the two

bridges of Banff and Alva, (a distance of two miles—all comprehended in Lord Fife's park,)* affords a succession of beautiful or romantic scenes; though even, perhaps, as it is, the "capabilities" of the ground have not received full justice: the walks not being always led with sufficient skill to catch the finest points of view, nor the necessary openings for the same purpose left in the wood.

The breadth of the river where it washes this parish does not, perhaps, in any place, exceed 130 yards. Its depth is very unequal, and liable to great fluctuations from shifting masses of sand and gravel. In some places, it runs in shallow streams; in others there are pools of 10 or 12 feet, or even of greater depth. Under the arch of the bridge of Alva, where the stream is forcibly confined, it is said to be of 15 fathoms depth.

On some late occasions, the river, especially when aided by high tides and northerly winds, has overflowed the low part of the town, and occasioned much mischief and inconvenience. In 1799, in 1829, and in 1835, such inundations occurred, with a less considerable one between the two latter periods. On these occasions, there have been five or six feet of water in some of the streets, the inhabitants being rescued from their houses by boats. In 1829, three horses of the mail-coach were drowned, in attempting to pass through the Market-square.

Springs.—The parish is well supplied with springs, and water may be found in most places by digging. In general, the water is slightly impregnated with carbonate of iron. There is a spring perceptibly chalybeate to the taste, about half a mile west of the town; and a very strong chalybeate (of great use as a tonic) about a mile farther west, in the parish of Boyndie.

Geology and Mineralogy.†—The general direction of the strata within this parish is about from north-east to south-west; and the parish being narrow, and running in a direction parallel to that of the strata, and including only within its range a limited number of beds of rock, affords but few remarkable geological features.

The prevailing rocks are clay-slate and graywacke, although an intermixture of various other seams of rock is frequently met with.

From the river mouth for about half a-mile, as far westward as

* A high degree of liberality is shown by the Noble proprietor in the freedom granted to the public, of walking in his grounds.

† For the section on *Geology* and other valuable assistance, the compiler has to acknowledge his obligations to James Christie, Esq. solicitor.

Boyndie bay, a bed of clay-slate is found reposing on graywacke ; the latter, at different points, protruding through the clay-slate, and rising, adjacent to the harbour, to the height of about forty feet. The clay-slate is found resting on the graywacke in a conformable position, and following its windings in thin strata as far as they can be seen, till dipping or covered again by the soil or other beds of sand and shingle resting upon them. The elevation of the strata is different at different points. Where it is in conjunction with the graywacke, it may be at an elevation of from 60° to 80°, and gradually declining to a less angle of elevation as it recedes from the graywacke and approaches the surface of the bed of clay-slate. The clay-slate and graywacke at their junction alternate with each other in thin veins for a small space, and are interspersed occasionally with thin veins of graywacke slate. A little to the westward of the rock called the Elf Kirk, at low water-mark, a small portion of the old red sandstone formation makes its appearance, and seems, to the eastward, to be in conjunction with the graywacke. Above the old, rests a thin stratum of the new red sandstone ; but neither appear again at any other point within the parish. Adjacent to the harbour, thin veins of quartz, in a variety of ramifications, run through the graywacke. Around these veins the graywacke is changed to a brown, as if the heat of the quartz, poured in a liquid state into the crack, had changed its colour. The thickness of these quartz veins, in some places, may be about a foot, decreasing in size, in the different ramifications, till they totally disappear. In general, the colour of the graywacke is changed, in a greater or less degree, at all points where the veins of quartz are found.

Towards the western side of the parish, there is a bed of mica-slate of a fine grain, resting on secondary gneiss, which is in conjunction, near Whitehills (in the parish of Boyndie) with the graywacke, on which it appears to be reposing. This bed affords many specimens of what is termed undulated mica-slate, and is traversed, farther to the westward, by thin veins of lime, which, below the flood-mark of the sea, is perforated with different kinds of pholas, which pierce the vein till obstructed by a vein of graywacke slate, or some other of the siliceous rocks. This bed soon enters the parish of Boyndie, passing to the south-westward near Blair-shinnoch.

The only point where granite appears, is at a place called Cairn of Ord, the most south-westerly part of the parish. There, on a

piece of rising ground, the granite comes to the surface. In one part of the bed, the granite is excellent; but in other parts, at the same point, it passes into secondary granite, or syenite, in which the quartz is either entirely wanting, or only found in very small quantities. The felspar is white and small-grained, and appears quite free from iron or any other colouring matter. Hence it retains its beautiful white colour, without being changed by the action of the atmosphere; and, on that account, has been much esteemed for building.

This rock passes into gneiss and coarse mica-slate, which appears at different points a little to the eastward, but which has never been employed for any useful purpose.

Various beds of sand, shingle, and clay, of different depths at different points, cover these strata; but none of them appear worthy of any remark, unless in so far as regards a bed of lias clay, which is found in patches at different points within the parish. This bed is of very considerable extent, stretching over a surface of more than twenty square miles. Belemnites and ammonites are found in it at all places where it has been wrought. It has long been wrought at Blackpots, a little to the westward of the boundary of this parish, for bricks and tiles, and also within the parish adjacent to the town, for the same purposes; and the belemnite and ammonite have been found there in great abundance, as well as various other shells peculiar to that formation.

There are no hornblende rocks *in situ* within the parish, but there is abundance of rolled blocks of that mineral scattered over the surface, as well as of hypersthene and augite. Rolled blocks of granite, having the felspar red, are also found. Porphyritic hornstone in water-worn nodules is also found on the moors and along the sea-beach.

Alluvial deposits are very scanty, being mostly confined to a few patches along the line of the Doveran.

The soils are extremely varied, partaking in some measure of the nature of the rocks on which they severally repose; being, on the slate rock, of a clayey and soft nature, and very fertile.

Meteorology.—The climate is singularly changeable and capricious. At no time can a continuance of any particular sort of weather be in the least depended on. Winter is often comparatively warm, and summer cold. In 1831, the difference between the temperature on the 24th June at half-past eight at night, and the 11th December at the same hour, was only 5°. In

1832,* in like manner, the thermometer stood so low as 50 on the 6th July; so high as $49\frac{1}{2}$ on the 23d January,—on both occasions at half-past eight in the evening. May and June are generally characterized by severe droughts, and piercing northerly and easterly winds. The trees are scarcely in full leaf at midsummer; about which time, very often storms arise that blacken and wither their foliage. The steadiest and most pleasant weather is generally in August and September.

The following meteorological tables for the year 1832, are the result of observations taken under the direction of the Banff Scientific Institution.

	BAROMETER.					THERMOMETER.				
	<i>Highest.</i>		<i>Lowest.</i>		<i>Mean of the Month.</i>	<i>Highest.</i>		<i>Lowest.</i>		<i>Mean of the Month.</i>
	<i>Morn.</i>	<i>Even.</i>	<i>Morn.</i>	<i>Even.</i>		<i>Morn.</i>	<i>Even.</i>	<i>Morn.</i>	<i>Even.</i>	
Jan.	30.4	30.2	29.1	29.2	29.7	50.	49.5	30.	27.2	39.6
Feb.	30.5	30.4	28.8	28.8	29.9	52.	50.	34.4	33.3	39.7
Mar.	30.2	30.2	28.8	28.8	29.6	49.	48.3	35.	33.6	41.3
Apr.	30.5	30.5	29.2	29.2	30.	55.9	54.	41.	40.	47.2
May.	30.5	30.5	29.3	29.3	29.	58.	59.	42.	41.	49.4
June.	30.3	30.3	29.	29.3	29.8	65.	66.	49.	49.	55.8
July.	30.4	30.4	29.5	29.6	30.	68.	65.	52.	50.	57.7
Aug.	30.2	30.3	29.4	29.3	29.8	67.5	66.	51.	48.	59.5
Sept.	30.4	30.5	29.5	29.5	29.9	62.	58.	49.	48.	54.4
Oct.	30.5	30.4	29.0	29.1	29.8	59.	57.	40.	43.	50.5
Nov.	30.4	30.4	28.7	28.9	29.6	49.	47.	31.	36.	41.3
Dec.	30.2	30.2	29.1	28.7	29.6	44.	42.	32.	32.	38.

(The observations were taken at half-past nine A. M., and half-past eight P. M.)

WINDS AND RAIN.

	<i>N.</i>	<i>N. E.</i>	<i>E.</i>	<i>S. E.</i>	<i>S.</i>	<i>S. W.</i>	<i>W.</i>	<i>N. W.</i>	<i>Inches of Rain.</i>
January,	6	0	1	10	21	18	3	3	0.78
February,	1	0	0	2	35	16	3	1	0.2
March, -	0	2	0	5	16	22	11	6	1.04
April, -	7	5	3	11	17	5	6	6	3.
May, -	19	10	1	6	5	1	15	5	1.25
June, -	6	4	5	14	8	2	10	11	2.57
July, -	12	3	1	6	3	14	11	12	1.25
August,	13	4	2	6	13	7	10	7	3.50
September,	3	0	0	4	16	4	26	7	2.10
October, -	0	0	0	0	18	28	14	2	2.44
November,	0	2	0	1	26	21	1	9	1.8
December,	1	0	0	1	9	29	11	11	2.32
									22.25

It is somewhat remarkable, that, notwithstanding the cold northern exposure of Banff, and the general variableness of the cli-

* These years have not been selected for this singularity, which is probably not peculiar to them, but as being the only years of which a register of the weather is to be had.

mate,—cold and hot, dry and damp, succeeding each other with the greatest rapidity and irregularity,—the town is not only subject to no peculiar complaints, nor to a peculiar severity of any complaints, but is in every respect, and in a high degree, healthy. What one would least expect in such a climate, pulmonary complaints are both rare, and of a gentle type when they do occur. Consumption is far from frequent. Hooping-cough is only found in a mild form. Patients in the latter complaint are often brought to this neighbourhood from some distance; and, in the opinion of some, the locality is favourable to their recovery, in a degree beyond what the mere change of air (known to be always beneficial in this disorder) can sufficiently account for.

Zoology.*—I. MAMMALIA.—This section of natural history does not seem to require any particular notice; the animals comprehended under it, in this parish, being such only as are common throughout the counties of Aberdeen, Banff, and Moray. It may, however, be remarked, that of late years several instances have occurred of the hedgehog (*Erinaceus Europæus*,) † having been found in the parish, where at no distant period it was unknown. It is probable that this animal advances with the progress of cultivation, and especially with the planting of hedges and trees. The hare (*Lepus timidus*) is, on the contrary, and for the same reason, decreasing in numbers, especially in the more immediate vicinity of the town, and, it is conjectured, is retiring to those open grassy wastes, and sea side downs, which are more congenial to its habits. The roe-deer (*Cervus capreolus*) is found wild in Lord Fife's woods.

II. BIRDS.—1. *Land Birds*.—The red grouse (*Lagopus Scoticus*) is found sparingly in the upper and heathy districts of the parish. The partridge (*Perdix cinerea*) is common, and we have been informed by a sportsman well versed in these matters, that he once met with a specimen of the quail (*Coturnix vulgaris*,) in a cultivated part of this parish. The pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*)

* For the section on *Zoology*, the compiler of the account is indebted to the kindness of the Rev. James Smith, rector of Banff Academy.

† The scientific names here given are taken from "Fleming's History of British Animals," published in 1828. That subdivision was necessary, and, to a great extent in the *genera* established by Linnæus, cannot be doubted. It appears, however, to be questionable, whether, in the above-mentioned work, the learned author has not shewn a tendency to approach the opposite extreme, and to exalt unnecessarily, into distinct *genera*, a number of animals which hitherto have ranked only as *species*. The frequent and excessive change of *genera* and *species* is one of the most annoying obstacles which the student of natural history has to encounter; and, except where clearly and absolutely necessary, the practice ought as much as possible to be discountenanced.

abounds in Lord Fife's plantations, and the ring-pheasant (*Phasianus torquatus*,) now considered by naturalists as a distinct species, may there not unfrequently be met with. The ring-dove (*Columba palumbus*) is abundant in every plantation. The rock-dove (*Columba livia*,) although frequent in the adjoining and rocky parish of Gamrie, is not to be found in this parish, the nature of the coast not being suited to its habits. The kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*,) common. The merlin (*Falco æsalon*,) rare. The kite (*Milvus vulgaris*, here called the *glead*,) not common. The hen-harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) not common. The sparrow-hawk (*Buteo nisus*,) not uncommon. The horn-owl (*Otus vulgaris*;) the barn-owl (*Aluco flammeus*;) screech-owl (*Strix stridula*,) common. The swallow (*Hirundo rustica*;) the martin (*Hirundo urbica*;) the sand martin (*Hirundo riparia*;) the swift (*Cypselus apus*.) In ordinary seasons, the first of the swallow tribe have been observed to arrive in this parish about the 10th of May. The goatsucker (*Caprimulgus Europæus*) has been occasionally met with. The cinereous shrike (*Lanius excubitor*,) rare. The waxen chatterer (*Bombycilla garrula*,) rare; a specimen shot here preserved in the museum of the Banff Institution. The misel-thrush (*Turdus viscivorus*) has of late years increased in this part of the country, and is in some places as numerous as the common thrush (*Turdus musicus*.) The fieldfare (*Turdus pilaris*, here called the *Highland pyot*,) on the approach of winter descends in flocks from the more mountainous regions. The blackbird (*Turdus merula*,) common. The dipper (*Cinclus aquaticus*, the water ouzel,) common on the Doveran. Also the fallowchat (*Saxicola ænanthe*, here called the *chackert*;) the whinchat (*Saxicola rubetra*;) the red-breast (*Sylvia rubecula*;) the white-throat (*Curruca sylvia*;) the hedge-sparrow (*Accentor modularis*.) The golden-crested wren (*Regulus cristatus*) appeared here a few years ago, in a large flock, on the links, during winter. Its nest has been found in the top of a tall whin bush. The following also are found: The common wren (*Troglodytes vulgaris*.) The white wagtail (*Motacilla alba*, here called the *water wagtail*.) The yellow wagtail (*Motacilla flava*) not common. The sea titling (*Anthus petrosus*.) The meadow titling (*Anthus pratensis*.) The cross-bill (*Loxia curvirostra*) has been occasionally met with. The yellow bunting (*Emberiza citrinella*, here called the *yellow yirling*.) Common bunting (*Emberiza miliaria*.) The snow-bunting (*Emberiza*

nivalis, snow-flake,) seen occasionally about the rocks in winter. The field-lark (*Alauda arvensis*.) Cole titmouse (*Parus ater*.) Blue titmouse (*Parus cæruleus*.) Bullfinch (*Pyrrhula vulgaris*.) Green grosbeak (*Coccothraustes chloris*, provincially green linnet.) House sparrow (*Pyrgita domestica*.) Chaffinch (*Fringilla cælebs*.) Brown linnet (*Fringilla cannabina*, provincially *lintie*.) Mountain finch (*Fringilla montifringilla*.) Siskin (*Fringilla spinus*; a winter visitant.) Goldfinch (*Fringilla carduelis*.) Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) sometimes appears in flocks on the coast. Magpie (*Pica caudata*.) Raven (*Corvus corax*.) breeds near the bridge of Alva. Carrion crow (*Corvus corone*.) Hooded-crow (*Corvus corni*.) Jackdaw (*Corvus monedula*.) Rook (*Corvus frugilegus*.) Common creeper (*Certhia familiaris*.) Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*) rare. The cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*.)

2. *Waders*.—The following occur: The heron (*Ardea cinerea*.) The bittern (*Ardea stellaris*.) A beautiful specimen of this now rare bird was shot in 1831, a few miles from Banff, and is now in the museum of the Institution. The crake or corncrake (*Ortygometra crex*.) Common water hen (*Gallinula chloropus*.) Curlew (*Numenius arquata*) is sometimes to be seen among the rocks by the sea side. The whimbrel (*Numenius phæopus*) has been heard in this parish flying overhead, being easily distinguishable by its singular notes; but has never been observed on the ground, nor as a regular visitant of the parish. Throughout this part of the country, generally, it is much less frequent than its congener the curlew. The woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola*.) The great snipe (*Scolopax major*.) A snipe, described, by the gentleman who shot it in this parish a few years ago, as much larger than any he had ever seen, is supposed to have been a specimen of this rather rare bird. The common snipe (*Scolopax gallinago*) is decreasing fast, in this and the adjoining parishes, in consequence of the improvements in agriculture, and especially the draining of marshy and boggy ground. Jack-snipe (*Scolopax gallinula*.) * Lapwing (*Vanellus cristatus*, here called the *teuchet*.) Gray plover (*Squatarola cinerea*.) Sanderling (*Calidris arenaria*.) Golden plover (*Charadrius pluvialis*) descends to the sea shore in storms. Ringed plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*, provincially *sanny laverock*.) Oyster-catcher (*Hæmatopus ostralegus*.)

* *Dunlin* (*Tringa alpina*) in this part of the country called the *dobie*. Purple sandpiper (*Tringa striata*.) has been observed on the rocks, near the harbour, during spring. Not common. Figured by Bewick as the *knot*.

3. *Water Birds*.—Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*.) Shag (*Phalacrocorax graculus*, provincially *scart*.) Gannet (*Sula Bassana solan* goose,) is frequently to be seen in the bay here. Golden eye duck (*Clangula vulgaris*), a winter visitant of the Doveran, where it may be seen in considerable numbers. Long-tailed duck (*Clangula glacialis*, here called *coal and candle light*), frequent during winter in the bay, but never enters the river. In a calm day, their singular cries, resembling the words *coal and candle light*, may be heard all over the bay.* Scaup duck (*Nyroca marila*), in severe winters sometimes appears in considerable numbers on the Doveran, where it is known by the name of *Norwegian teal*. On its first arrival from the north, it suffers itself to be closely approached, but soon becomes more wary. Common mallard or wild duck (*Anas boschas*), found in great numbers on the Doveran, in Lord Fife's grounds, where no one is allowed to molest them. The wigeon (*Anas penelope*.) The cracker or pintail duck (*Anas acuta*.) The writer of this has never seen but a single specimen of this duck on the Doveran, during the course of nine or ten years. It occurred in 1830, and associated with a flock of the common wild duck. Gargany or summer teal (*Anas querquedula*;) a single specimen only of this duck has been met with within the writer's knowledge. The teal (*Anas crecca*) is found in winter in great numbers near the bridge of Alva. Brent goose (*Anser brenta*;) a fine specimen of this goose was shot, near the sea coast a few years ago. The wild swan (*Cygnus ferus*.) Goosander (*Mergus merganser*.) In severe winters, these beautiful birds may be seen on the Doveran sometimes in flocks. The red-breasted goosander (*Mergus serrator*) has never been observed on the Doveran, but a specimen was shot some time ago among the rocks at some distance from Banff. The razorbill auk (*Alca torda*), and the puffin (*Fratercula arctica*), are frequently to be seen in the bay, and along the shore; making excursions from those stupendous rocks on the adjoining parish of Gamrie, where is to be seen one of the most extensive and most magnificent breeding places of these and other birds, known by the name of *sea fowl*. Little grebe (*Podiceps minor*.) Northern diver (*Colymbus glacialis*;) a specimen, in possession of a gentleman in this town, weighed, when killed, twelve pounds. The guillemot, here called the *queet*, (*Uria troile*), and the Greenland dove, or black guil-

* Pochard (*Nyroca ferina*;)—a specimen of the male of this species was killed during this winter (rather a severe one) on a mill dam in this parish. White eye, or castaneous duck (*Nyroca leucophthalmos*), a very rare visitant.

lemot, (*Cephus grylle*, here called the *testie*,) may often be seen in the bay. The arctic skua (*Cataractes parasiticus*.) Black-backed gull (*Larus marinus*.) Herring gull (*Larus argentatus*, here called the *pewel*, from its cry.) Common gull (*Larus canus*.) Kittiwake (*Larus rissa*, provincially *kitty*,) one of the *sea fowl* found in greatest abundance on the Gamrie rocks. Common tern or sea swallow, (*Sterna hirundo*, provincially *piktarrock*,) not resident in this parish, but may occasionally be seen on its way to flat and sandy coasts, its usual places of abode.

III. FISHES.—The sea lamprey (*Petromyzon marinus*) has been occasionally caught. It is termed the *lamper eel*. Common dog-fish (*Spinax acanthias*,) caught in immense quantities during the herring season, and sold by the cart-load for manure to the ground. The thornback skate (*Raia clavata*.) The common skate (*Raia batis*.) Sturgeon (*Acipenser sturio*.) A sturgeon, about 5 feet in length, was caught in the bay in the summer of 1833. Salmon (*Salmo salar*.) Bull-trout (*Salmo eriox* and *Salmo hucho*.) The bull-trout occurs occasionally in the Doveran. Sea-trout (*Salmo trutta*) found in great numbers. Finnock (*Salmo albus*,) also found in great numbers, and by the most experienced judges regarded as a species perfectly distinct from any other of the genus *Salmo*. Common burn-trout (*Salmo fario*.) Herring (*Clupea harengus*;) taken in great quantities from about the middle of July to the middle of September. Gar fish, sea-needle or sea-pike, (*Belone vulgaris*.) Minnow (*Leuciscus phoxinus*.) Lump-fish, cock-padle, (*Cyclopterus lumpus*.) Common cod (*Morhua vulgaris*.) Haddock (*Morhua aeglefinus*.) Whitehills, a fishing village in the vicinity, is famous for its smoked or yellow haddocks. These by many are reckoned equal, if not superior, to the celebrated *Finnon* haddocks. Ling (*Molva vulgaris*,) not so frequent as the cod and haddock. Whiting (*Merlangus vulgaris*.) Coal fish (*Merlangus carbonarius*.) The young in their least state are called *gerracks*, afterwards *podlies*, *sethes*, &c. Turbot (*Pleuronectes maximus*,) here called the *roan fleuk*. Till of late years the value of this fish was but little known as an article of food, and by the fishermen themselves it is still but little esteemed for that purpose. It is, however, now eagerly bought up by those who are fond of good living. Brill (*Pleuronectes rhombus*;) but little inferior to the preceding species, for which it is not unfrequently taken. Sole (*Solea vulgaris*,) not common. Plaice (*Pla-*

tessa vulgaris,) here called *plash fleuk*. Flounder (*Platessa flesus*,) here called *grey fleuk*. Holibut (*Hippoglossus vulgaris*,) here called *turbot*. Common eel (*Anquilla vulgaris*,) Common launce, (*Ammodytes tobianus*;) Sand-eel, or, as it is here termed, *sannel*. Blade-fish (*Trichiurus lepturus*,) In the autumn of 1829, a fish, supposed to be of the above species, was found among the rocks near this place, dead, but in a perfect state of preservation. It measured about 6 feet in length, and about 20 inches in breadth, where widest. The dorsal fin was of a brilliant red, and extended the whole length of the back. The body was of a silvery bluish-white appearance. The head was not unlike, in miniature, to that of a horse. The body was excessively compressed, being scarcely more than three or four inches thick. Sea perch (*Serranus Norvegicus*,) not uncommon at particular seasons of the year. Wolf fish (*Anarhichas lupus*,) here called the *sea cat*. Angler (*Lophius piscatorius*,) here called the *sea devil*, on account of its hideous appearance. Gray gurnard (*Trigla gurnardus*,) here called the *croonach*. Gray mullet (*Mugil cephalus*,) This fish is frequently taken here: it seems to delight in a rocky bottom. Mackerel (*Scomber vulgaris*,) found here during the herring fishery in great numbers. John Doree (*Zeus faber*,) Mr Robinson informs me, that about half a dozen of this rare fish were caught in his salmon bag-net, in the summer of 1834, and two others during last summer. Stickleback (*Gasterosteus aculeatus*,) here called *banstickle*.

The bay here abounds with shrimps (*Cancer crangon*,) which have been occasionally fished for with success.

The mussel (*Mytilus edulis*) is not a native of this coast. Immense numbers of them, however, are annually brought by the fishermen from the shores of the Cromarty Frith, and are deposited among the rocks here, for the purpose of being afterwards used for bait. The lobster (*Cancer gammarus*) is abundant, and also the crab (*Cancer pagurus*,) here called *parten*. The crab, however, obtained here is not reckoned nearly so good as those brought to the Aberdeen market. A specimen of the cuttle-fish (*Loligo officinalis*,) is occasionally seen.

Botany.—The parish has never been made the subject of an exact botanical survey; but, comprehending as it does, hill and dale, wood, water, and sea-coast, with no small variety of soil and exposure, it no doubt possesses an extensive and interesting Flora. The plants of the parish of Banff are, however, confined to the “woody

region," or " agricultural and upland zones," (as fixed by Hewett Watson ;) for no part of it is sufficiently high for *Carex rigida* ; and although *Corylus avellana*, which is found in the lower grounds, ceases in the upper, *Calluna vulgaris* grows vigorously at the highest point. Of the plants observed in the parish, the following are chiefly worth enumerating :—*Adoxa moschatellina*, *Agrimonia Eupatorium*, *Arenaria rubra*, *Cardamine amara*, *Gymnadenia conopsea*, *Habenaria bifolia*, *Hyacinthus non-scriptus*, *Lepidium Smithii*, five or six species of *Hypericum*, *Polygonum viviparum*, *Trientalis Europæa*, &c. Upon the coast in the immediate neighbourhood of the town, we have *Arenaria marina* and *peploides*, *Cochlearia officinalis*, *Glaux maritima*, *Plantago Coronopus*, with the beautiful *Lithospermum maritimum*, and the rather rare *Blasmus rufus*. To these may be added *Pyrethrum maritimum*, for which, indeed, one of the oldest recorded British stations is " rocks at Doun, near Banff, in Scotland." The most interesting feature, however, in the Flora of the parish, is undoubtedly *Scilla verna*, spring squill, with its fine blue fragrant flowers, which was discovered in spring 1835, by Mr George Campbell Smith. The species has long been known to be frequent in Orkney, Shetland, and the western parts of Britain, but it was considered very rare upon our eastern coasts, and, indeed, was not known to occur there until a few years ago. *Digitalis purpurea* abounds in the parish, and is used for medical purposes.

Planting.—Duff House park, extending along the river side for a stretch of above two miles, and having many rides or paths branching out into the adjacent country, contains a considerable extent of ornamental planting ; the south-eastern and western slopes of the Gallowhill are also partially wooded. A few large ash trees near the principal gate of Duff House park are supposed to have been in existence since the Airly family resided there. The soil of the parish (though perhaps not in a high degree adapted for timber of any sort) permits the growth of every species of forest tree, particularly larch and Scotch fir. Unfortunately, however, the greater part of its surface is directly exposed to the fierce blasts that sweep over the north sea, so that planting only thrives in the few localities that afford a little shelter in that direction. Trees exposed to the north are almost invariably bare on their northern side, and bend their branches towards the opposite quarter, as if turning away from the fury of their ruthless enemy

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Documents.—There is a manuscript, entitled “History of the Town and Parish of Banff,” written about the end of the last century, by the late William Rose, Esq. of Mountcoffer, a gentleman noted for his singular acquaintance with the history of landed property and proprietors in the north of Scotland. It is now in the possession of his son, Patrick Rose, Esq. Sheriff-clerk of the county, who has kindly allowed the use of it to the writers, both of this and the former Statistical Account of the parish—into one or other of which accounts much of its contents have been transferred.

A variety of papers relative to the former circumstances and transactions of the burgh have also been left by the late William Reid, Esq. town-clerk : with the use of which the compiler of this Account has been favoured. A good many of these relate more exclusively to municipal concerns ; the others are chiefly extracts from Mr Rose’s manuscript, with additional remarks.

Parochial Registers.—The earliest date of the parochial registers is 1620. The registers are pretty voluminous, and seem to have all along been kept with regularity.

Surveys, &c.—There does not appear to have been any survey ever made of the parish, as a parish. The estates of each of the different proprietors have been surveyed, but none of them lately, with the exception of that of Sir Robert Abercromby. There is a six-sheet map of the counties of Aberdeen, Banff, and Kincardine, with parts of adjoining counties, on the scale of an inch to an English statute mile, published in 1822 by James Robertson, A. M. F. R. S. It has a table of the superficial contents of each parish, and of the height of the most remarkable hills. It also delineates the varieties of surface, &c. There is also a four-sheet map of the counties of Aberdeen and Banff, on a scale of two-thirds of an inch to a British statute mile, by Alexander Irvine Ross, land-surveyor, published in 1826. Perhaps there may be other maps.

Transactions.—The history of the parish is rather destitute of interest. Beyond the various revolutions of property, it presents few materials for narrative. Certain of the lands of which it consists, seem anciently to have constituted part of two different thanedoms—that of Boyne, and that of Mowbray. The thanedom of Boyne belonged, in the time of Robert Bruce, to Randolph Earl of Moray, and subsequently passed to the Ogilvies, a branch of the family of Deskford. The thanedom of Mowbray (which in-

cluded part of Inchdrewer and some adjoining lands,) belonged, at one time, to the Barclays of Towie. Walter Barclay, of this family, was sheriff of Banff in 1304. Another part of Inchdrewer (probably comprehended in the lands of Strathalva) belonged, in 1414, to Alexander Lindsay,³ Earl of Crawford, from whom it passed to the Ogilvies of Auchterhouse. Margaret Ogilvie (of this family) inheriting the lands of Strathalva and Doune, married James Stewart, Earl of Buchan, brother of James II.; and these lands were then formed into a new thanedom, called Glendowachie, or the Glen of Dow; * Banff Castle being at the same time made the messuage of the earldom of Buchan, and thanedom of Glendowachie.

The town lands included all that is now called the liberties of the burgh, or burgh roods, that is, a tract extending along the whole sea coast boundary of the parish, and from half a mile to two miles inland, but excepting out of this the immediate demesnes of the castle (which was a constabulary) and the church lands. The town also possessed the river fishings for an extent of some miles, except two nets nearest the river mouth, one of which, with the sea fishing to the east, belonged to the Earl of Buchan, as holding the thanedom of Glendowachie, the other to the thane of Boyne. To the town belonged the sea fishing opposite to and west of, the river mouth as far as the western boundary of the parish.

Prior to the year 1470, the town's lands and fishings seem to have been all enjoyed in a state of common. In that year, in order to defray certain public expenses,† the fishings were let out to individual burgesses on leases of nineteen years. In 1595, the salmon fishings and the greater part of the lands were (by virtue of a royal

* This is the Gaelic word signifying *black*. Dowerane or Doveran is *black water*—still the name of the river at its source. Doune or Dowan, the name of the estate on which Macduff is situated, and *Dow*, or *Dawhaugh*, on which Duff House stands, are probably from the same root.

† “For the infetting and fundanation makkin of a perpetuale chaplainry to sing in the peell heif of the said burgh (the old churchyard) for our Sovereigne Lorde the King and the Quyne, their predecessors and successors, the founders, for all Cristione saullis, for the theicking of the kirk with sclate, and the bigging of the tolbuthe, and for quhat the burgh has not substance.” James Ogilvie of Deskford, for three nets of the water was to pay L. 6, and “bound to defend the burgh in their guid and honest quarrelles and freedom of the water, and if masterly vaxit, to bring the fish back fra the vaxars.”

On an occasion of leasing the fishings that occurred in 1551, “a nett of the King's water and an aughten part of Urack (name of a particular fishing in the river) were given to Elizabeth Ord to be reserved to Marjory Grantully, her guddame, beand widow, for her life, and the profite of the aughten part to Elizabeth her education and nourishing in less age, and this for curtassie as her father fell at Pinkie and was slain, and when she comes to 12 years to marry a burges residing.”—Who was the burgess that was eventually blessed with this well endowed helpinate, does not appear.

charter obtained for that special purpose) let out in perpetuity at a small annual feu-duty, which, however, appears to have been the *actual rent* at the time.

Land-owners.—The principal landholders at present are, the Earl of Fife, Earl of Seafield, and Sir Robert Abercromby of Birkbog, grandson, by the mother's side, of the last Lord Banff.

To a comparatively late period, the town seems to have been a very insignificant place, little more than a fishing village, an appendage to the monastery and castle. The streets were not paved before 1551; and, at the beginning of the succeeding century, few houses besides Lord Airlie's, Lord Banff's, and the Laird of Auchmedden's houses, were slated. The harbour was formerly within the river.*

Historical Events.—The town has never been connected with any historical event of importance, but some visitations to which it was subjected in the troublous times of old, have no doubt been reckoned of sufficient importance by the inhabitants. Spalding relates that, in March or April 1644, "There went down to Banff the lairds of Gight, Newtown, and Ardlogie, with a party of forty horse and musketeers, brave gentlemen. They took in the town, without contradiction, meddled with the keys of the tolbooth, took free quarters, and plundered all the arms they could get, buff-coats, pikes, swords, carabines, pistols, yea, and money also. They took frae Alexan-

* The following effort of "the vision and the faculty divine," is the production of no less famous a person than Dr. Arthur Johnston, being one of his "*Epigrams upon severall of the Royall burghs in this Kingdom; as may be found in his poems printed at Middle-Burgh, 1642. Translated into English by I. B.*" (elsewhere more fully designed, "Mr John Barclay, person of Cruden.")

BANFF near the Ocean doth thy self confess
In Bulk then *Trica*, or *Hypæpe* less:
Yet art acknowledg'd by the neighbouring lands
To be their *Regent* and the *Boyne* commands:
Nor cornes nor pastures wanting are to thee,
Nor stately ships which do lanch forth to sea.
Thou art adorned by a temple-great,
And by the *Muses* and *Astrea's* Seat.
A place is near which was a field untill
Our ancestors did raise it to an hill,
Hither the sea flows up to *Diveron's* flood,
A stately castle also on it stood,
A warlick fort, its rubbish yet appears,
The rest's consum'd by time, which all things wears.
The buildings which joyn to the mercat-place,
The *Parian* pillars which uphold them grace:
Strong for defence and specious to the sight,
In them doth dwell a noble ancient knight:
A vertuous people doth inhabite thee,
And this, O BANFF! thy greatest praise must be.

der Winchester, one of the baillies, 700 merks, whilk he had as one of the collectors of the taxations and loan-silver of Banff; and siklike took frae him 400 merks of his own gear; and frae — Shand in Down; they plundered some monies. They caused their baillies (for Dr Douglas, their provost, had fled,) and townsmen, subscribe and swear the band, denying the last covenant, and obliging them to follow the king and his deputies, in his service, as ye have before. They took also frae George Geddes, another of the said four collectors, 500 merks of taxation and loan-silver; and Gight kepted all the monies.”

The upshot of this transaction, so far as “Gight” was concerned, is told in the following words: from which we gather that the good laird’s purposes had been sorely misinterpreted by a censorious world. It is to be feared that even Baillie Winchester himself may have been vexed with some ungenerous suspicions.

“Now the parliament goes on against Sir George Gordon of Gight, and John Gordon, his brother, who was also had over with him to Edinburgh. He is accused upon divers matters, but denies all; he is accused upon the plundering of Banff, whilk he denied, except some monies he *received in borrowing upon promise of restitution*. It is referred to his oath; he depones conform, and subscribes his deposition; they craftily summoned over witnesses out of Banff, to prove him perjured, and thereby guilty of death; at last his process is continued to the 8th of January 1645, that the parliament should sit down, through whilk delay he escaped prison.”

In 1645 the Marquis of Montrose seems to have bethought himself of negotiating a *loan* among the capitalists of Banff—doubtless on the same sort of terms, as to interest and security, as erewhile in use with that eminent financier the laird of Gight.

“Thereafter he marches to Banff, plunders the same pitifully, no merchant’s goods nor gear left; they saw no man on the street but was stripped naked to the skin. Some two or three worthless houses were burnt, but no blood shed, and so they left Banff.”*

The visitation of the laird of Gight and the other “brave gentlemen” seems to have been mere child’s play to this. There is yet extant a “humble supplication of the distress’d burgh of Banff,” made “Unto the Honourable and High Court of Parliament,” in 1647, and which “Humbly sheweth—That for our zealous affection, adherence, and concurrence to the covenant, and

* Spalding.

extending our utmost powers for prosecuting the ends of that same, we have not only spent ane great part of our means in keeping of the dyets that were ever in the north, as we were desyrit be those who were authorized to require us yearly, but likewise at last our haill means, both horses, nolt, cloaths, corn, and merchant guidis with our buiths, none whereof having been gotten removit, were all spolizit and away taken be James Graham, and his most cruel, unnatural, and merciless associates, in the month of March 1645—our plenishing of timber all burnt, with some of the houses in our toun, so that nothing was left unto us except the bare walls of the houses ; and thereafter, when we were in small and mean condition, we were striving to live thereafter be the assistance of our well affected friends and countrymen, there did still fall upon us, ever as they had occasion to be in the country, and never was we free either of them, in special the name of Gordon Harthill, Lodwick Lindsay, or Captain Mortimer, or otherways we were not free of our awn forces, the one coming in upon us, as the others were removit, even untill this day, as is notourly known, &c.”—“ So that now our condition is so miserable that we have nothing whereby either to labour our land, or use our trade, and dare not any of us frequent or haunt any burgess by reason of our debts restand be us for the guidis that were taken from us, for fear of the warding of our persons.”—“ And now our kirk, tolbuith, scholl, ferryboat, and all being demolisht and broken doun, we have no kind of subsistence neither for ourselves to live, neither to repair these common works.” The supplication, after stating that the burgh had debts of nearly 9000 merks, adds—“ All the haill foresaid sums having been spent upon commissers to the General Assemblies and Parliaments for outering of our proportion of our levies to England, and for the expenses of mayn guards and watches when General-Major Middleton, Lieutenant-Colonel Hew Montgomery, Lieutenant-Colonel John Home, Colonel Robert Montgomery, and ——— Lockhart, and the foot regiments belonging to the Earl of Lowthean, and Lairds of Lawers and Buchanan, were at several occasions quartered in our town, and sundry sums of money taken from us be several officers, to hold us free of quartering of horses when our corns were growing on the gròund, being even threatned whether they had orders or not, with plundering of our houses, and destroying of our cornes.” In the concluding petition for relief, a shrewd hint is given how to lay the saddle on the right horse, thus: “ And that your Honours will give us warrant

from this Parliament to be reparit thereof out of the first end of any sums shall be exactit, either be fineing or borrowing, from any of these within our awn schyre, or about our awn toun, who have been actually airt and part, or personally assistant to the away taking of our said means, or any part thereof, in this bygan tyme, and quha one or all of them are partly lying in our toun in a worse disposition nor ever they were of before." The copy is indorsed "Supplicatione, Toun of Banff Bodies 1647." The petitioners obtained a grant of their own excise as a means of relief.

The Duke of Cumberland's troops passed through Banff on the 10th November 1746, on their way to Culloden. The only exploits by which they signalized their visit were, the destruction of the Episcopal chapel, and the execution, or rather murder, of a poor man named Alexander Kinnaird, (from Culvie, in the parish of Marnoch.) Being found with a stick notched, or seen notching it, in a way supposed to take account of the boats passing the river with troops, he was taken for a spy, and immediately hanged on a tree, near the site of the present chief hotel.*

The last warlike visitation that befel the town was in the year 1759, when Thurot, a French commodore, appeared off the coast, with intentions which were at once conjectured to bode no augmentation of the common good. The Provost, wisely considering this an emergency in which the united wisdom of the community should be called to exercise itself in the most solemn mode known or in use, forthwith convened a head court of the burgh. Here, however, dumb consternation was found to prevail—every one looking unutterable things on his neighbour. Luckily, in this prostration of the faculties of the "whole heritors, feuars, burgesses, and other inhabitants liable to stent and taxation," who composed the court, there was one person capable of forming a determination, and this, as became his high dignity, was the Provost. His opinion being anxiously called for, was given with instant promptitude in favour of—running away !—A somewhat less decisive course, however, found favour in the eyes of one of the bailies, namely, that an endeavour should be made to compound with the foe for a certain sum; but to this the Provost objected, that, as such a sum

* A friend of the compiler's, who had lately occasion to inspect the town's records, has remarked it as a curious circumstance, that there is not a syllable to be found in them which could indicate that the country was not, at that period, in a state of the most profound calm; and shrewdly conjectures, that the magistrates had, with the characteristic caution of the nation, purposely avoided committing themselves by any written expression of opinion, which might stand in the way of their joining the party that should eventually prevail.

as would be accepted could not be immediately raised, hostages would inevitably be required—and who was to be thought worthy of this distinction? This difficulty appeared to the court a mere bagatelle. “The Provost”—was at once shouted from all quarters; to the chief-magistrate, as of right, the honour in question was tendered by acclamation; but, by that dignitary, most resolutely declined, and cordially offered to the bailie, out of whose proposal the occasion for conferring it had originated. Luckily in the course of the deliberations, or at least before the enemy had opportunity to secure any contributions, a means of deliverance more effectual than any which burghal wisdom had succeeded in devising, arose in the shape of a severe storm, which compelled the marauder to take his departure, leaving his anchors behind him for a memorandum,—some of which, it is said, were lately found.

Subsequently to this, the idea seems to have occurred, that a few eighteen and twenty-four pound guns, planted on the heights above the harbour, might facilitate any negotiations, for which occasion might chance to arise, with visitors of this description; and accordingly the town expended the sum of L. 400 (for the interest of which, by the way, we are assessed to this day,) in constructing a battery, guns being furnished by government, and certain of the citizens trained to work them. The battery was dismounted of its guns at the peace; and we have perhaps reason to reckon ourselves as safe without an enemy as with our guns.

Persons of note.—Only two persons of any note have been connected with this parish; and their respective histories present some curious points of contrast and resemblance.

James Sharp, the famous Archbishop of St Andrews, was born in Banff Castle in May 1613. His father (son of David Sharp, a merchant in Aberdeen,) was Sheriff-clerk of Banffshire; his mother a daughter of the laird of Kininvie. He studied at Aberdeen, and gave early proofs of superior talents. He afterwards visited the English universities, where he formed an acquaintance with several eminent divines. After his education was completed, he was, by the interest of the Earl of Rothes, to whom he was related, elected a Professor of Philosophy in St Andrews. He was, at a subsequent period, appointed Professor of Divinity in the same University; and was also, at one time, minister of Craill, in Fifeshire, an office which he is said to have discharged with diligence, fidelity, and kindness. In the course of

the religious and political disputes of his times, he was sent on a mission to Oliver Cromwell, which he executed with such apparent skill as to draw from the shrewd Protector the remark, that “this gentleman might well, according to a Scottish phrase, be denominated *Sharp of that Ilk*.” The succeeding events and tragical termination of his life are matter of general history. A letter from his son Sir William Sharp of Stonyhill, to Sir James Baird at Banff, describing the circumstances of the archbishop’s murder, will be found in the former Statistical Account, Volume xx. p. 373.

James Macpherson was an illegitimate branch of the family of Invereshie in Inverness-shire. His mother was a gipsy. He was reared at his father’s house until the death of the latter, when he was taken under his mother’s charge, and acquired the habits and pursuits of the race to which she belonged. He was remarkable not only for strength and beauty of person, but for the degree of talent which he displayed for certain mental accomplishments, for the cultivation of which his mode of life might seem to have afforded little opportunity. I am not aware that any of his poetical productions are known to exist except his *Lament*; but he seems to have been celebrated, during his lifetime, for his skill on the violin. It is said, too, that his conduct often afforded evidence of his being imbued with those feelings of generosity and pity which the fine arts are supposed to generate; and it does not appear that any cruel or atrocious act was ever laid to his charge. After several escapes from justice, to which he had made himself obnoxious by his lawless habits, he was eventually apprehended by the Laird of Braco and some of his followers at a Keith market: Braco himself being the first to seize upon him. So desperate, however, is said to have been his resistance, aided by one Peter Roy, that it was only by blankets being thrown over his head from the windows above, that his numerous assailants could obtain any advantage over him. He was thus compelled to fly; and seeking to reach the gable of the church, parrying the attack of his enemies by the way, he fell over a grave-stone, when he was secured, and lodged in the jail of Banff. His sword is yet in the possession of Lord Fife (Braco’s descendant,) at Duff House, and is a weapon of such weight as only a most powerful man could wield. M’Pherson was brought to trial along with James Gordon and Peter and Donald Brown, before the Sheriff of Banff, on the 7th November

1700. A claim was put in on behalf of the Laird of Grant for rep-pledging the two Browns, as being his vassals, and subject to his jurisdiction; and on this claim, and on some preliminary objections urged by the prisoners' counsel, an argument ensued of considerable length, and apparently by no means wanting in legal knowledge or acuteness. In an interlocutor, the Sheriff "sustains himself judge, notwithstanding the offer to repledge, in respect to the answer thereto, as being knoune habit and repute wagabonds, soroners, and Egiptians; and repells all the rest of the defences and replyes, in respect of the answer, (except that of robberie, which he does not sustain himself judge in;) and finds the libel relevant as to the rest of the articles, of being knoune habit and repute to be Egiptians and wagabonds, and keeping ye mercats in yr ordinarie manner of thieving and purse-cutting, or guiltie of the rest of the crimes of theft, and masterfull bangstree and oppression, to infer the punishment lybelled, and admitts the same to the knowledge of ane assyze." After the jury were impannelled "the Sheriff" (so it is in the record) "ordains the pannels for the satisfaction of the assizers to rehearse the Lord's prayer," &c.—but it is not stated how far the prisoners either did or could afford this "satisfaction." Twenty-one witnesses were then examined, fourteen of whom were able to sign their depositions. Most of them depone, that the pannels were habit and repute Egiptians, and that these Egiptians went about armed in bands; some adding, that they spoke a language which the deponents did not understand, and "which was not Irish." But otherwise few well-defined or very serious charges appear in evidence against the accused individually.* The evidence being heard, the jury, of which James

* As presenting a curious picture of the manners of the time and district, I have thought it worth while to transcribe all the material parts of the evidence. "The assisers craving Mr John Scot, minister at Diple, to be examined upon what was contained in the libell, and that yr were payt offerd him for what skaith he sustained in manner libelled, deponed, that at St Ruffus fair wes a year yr wes 40 lbs stolne from him, and he going in pursuit of the taker yrof at Couper Milne's tent, he wes interrupted by Peter Brown, who took him by the breast, while the woman who tooke the money threw herself on her face on the floor, and (as he heard) delivered to the woman yt keepled the tent ane black purse such as his wes, and which may be yet proven. But immediately yrafter Peter Broune, knowing the money wes conveyed of, came civilie and craved pardon, and offerd the woman should be dackered, and made a sham kind of dackering after the money wes gone, and yt this day James Grant of Elcheis offered repayt of the 40 lbs if he should not appear agt Peter Broune at this tyme; and this is truth as he shall ansr. to God. (Signed) JOHN SCOTT.

"Compeared John Shand in Maislie, aged 40 or yrby, married, purged *ut supra*, and interrogat, deponed, that at St Ruffus fair wes nyne years, yr came three women and took possne of his kill, and he being at work he sent word to his wife to put ym

Gordon of Ardmellie was chancellor, gave in a verdict finding the pannels to be “fyllid, culpable, and convick” of the crimes lybel-

off, but they would not, and told that Peter Broune was coming to take up quarters with them, and that he came and stayed yr with his company for a month, and took nothing but peats from him, and yt yr wes sixteen of them in number, and that Peter Broune went sometymes to Elchies and played on the viol; and deponed that they coft milk and cheese with yr ounie money, and no more but ane leg of mutton, which his wife saw them buy, and knowes not yt M'Pherson wes yr, but yt he wes ane night in his house at yt tyme, and drank with the rest and danced all night, and depones, that the door wes made open, but knowes not what way, and depones that they were sometimes in Jocksleyes, in kills, but knowes not how many of them were yr, nor how long they stayed. (Signed) JOHN SHAND.”

Lachlan M'Pherson, in Delmanny, depones—“That he was pnt when the chest was sealed, but the seals wes not rufled, but he heard that they had taken out the back of the chest, and put it in again.”—“heard Isobel Gall (one of the gipsies) would have been sent off and come weel loadene with money.”

(This deposition, and some parts of the others, cannot be fully understood for want of the indictment, which is lost.)

Patrick Reid, tacksmen of the excise, “On the 7th of Septer 1698, he happened to be at Keith, and saw about the number of twenty-seavene men in armes, with a piper, and, as he heard, Peter Broune was on the head of them, and M'Pherson on the rier, it being on the Saturday after St Ruffus fair, and now depones he knew Peter Broune wes on yr head, and that James Robertson told him that they were these called the Egyptians.”

John Fraser in Cuperhill—“One day they (the Egyptians) being in Keith, and as they went home to Hillockhead, yr came a boy to him, and told him that his cott was broken, so he went up to see, and fand it was so, and after telling of his sheep he missed one, so the next morning a woman neer by told him that the Egyptians had taken his sheep, and he went and dackered yr house, and could not find it, but saw some holes yrin that did not look weel, and after direct inquire he went to the cornyard, and yr found some of the Egyptians with bloodie pocks, his spainiall dog being with him, found the intrails of the wedder near to that place, in ane muir; at last Alexr. Phyn of Achanasie, under whom they resided at yt time, came to the said John Fraser, and comuned with him anent payt. of his wedder, and did accordingly pay him for the same, or at least promised, and further told him that he had granted the favour of yt house to Patrick Broune, and declaired unless he were payed they should not reside any longer in yt place, but declares that he did not see any of the pannals yr; and that is truth, &c.”

Archbald Grant in Maynes of Achluncart,—“Some Brounes and oysrs came and took possne of some pairt of Auchluncart, and that he dispossessed them, and that he heard a rumor of Patrick Broune's having Orton's cloak, and that yr wes a man in Achluncart that had a bile, whom M'Pherson took in hand to cure, and took away two mairs from the man, and pretended yr was a paction betwixt the man and him, and keeped one of the mairs, and the deponent took the oyr from him.”

George Ogilvie in Keith,—“hes seen boyes in mercats yt were called yr servants.”

William Robertson—“sead about twelve men with a pyper, come into Keith at St Ruffus fair wes two year, whereof the pannals were a pairt,”—“and that M'Pherson came to his house and spilt his ale, and stobbed the bed seeking the deponent, and that he wes forced to flie to Kinminintie's, who is one of the assysers, who knowes the truth, for refuge, for whom Kinminintie purchased a protectione from my Lord Seafieid, and a warrand to apprehend M'Pherson.”

Patrick Grant in Suter Croft—“hes seen ordinarily 5 or 6 men together in armes, whereof Peter Broune and M'Pherson were a pairt”—“hes seen little boys with them, yt were thought to be yr purse-cutters”—“and that the pannalls are said to be of *mala fama*, and that he heard that Edintore gott his money again, and that contrair to his desire James M'Pherson took possne of his chamber, and was forced to put oysrs out of yr room for them.”

Peter Duncan in Pitlurg—“that he bought a white plaid and payed yrfor, and

led—whereupon the Sheriff pronounced the following sentence: “For sae meikle as you, James M’Pherson and James Gordon, pan-nals, are found guilty, by ane verdict of ane assyse, to be knoune, holden and repute, to be Egyptians and vagabonds, and oppressors of his matie’s free lieges, in ane bangstrie manner, and going up and doune the country armed, and keeping the mercats in ane hostile manner; and that you are thieves, and receptors of thieves, and that you are of *pessima fama*: Therefore, the Shireff-depute of Banff, and I, in his name, adjudgeth and decernes you, the sds James M’Pherson and James Gordon to be taken to the cross of Banff, from the tolbooth yrof, where you now lye, and yr upon ane gibbet to be erected, to be hanged by the neck to the death, by the hand of the comone executioner, upon Friday nixt, being the 16 Nover instant, being a publick weeklie mercat-day, betwixt the houres of two and three in the afternoon, and, in the meantyme, declairs their haill movele goods and gear to be escheat and inbrought to the fiscall, for his matie’s interest; and recomends this sentence to be seen put in executioun by the magistrats of Banff.

(Signed) NICOLAS DUNBAR.

“And farther, the Sheriff-depute ordains ye three young rogues, now in prison, that this day yr ears be cropt, publiclie scourged throw the toune of Banff, and burnt upon the cheek by the executioner, and banished this shyre for ever, under paine of death.

(Signed) “NICOLAS DUNBAR.”

two of James M’Pherson’s men came to his house and broke up his pantry door and took out the plaide, and James M’Pherson came yrafter, and said that his house was broken, and alledged the deponent had his goods, and threatened to carry him to the toune of Elgin, and to put him in the pitt yr, and a while yrafter he came and took the deponent and carried him a good piece from his house, and then let him goe.”

Alexander Young in Whiteley—“that he was informed that James M’Pherson and Jonathan Grant stole his oxen with some oys, which he could prove if he were putt to it, and that James Robertson in the Maynes of Allanby did search after the oxen, and that James M’Pherson threatened them for alledging that he was one of the steallers, and came to his house with Peter Broune and sevrall oys of yr number, till they forced James Robertson to give them ten dollars, which the deponent declairs James Robertson was craiving from him as being injured upon his account, and that Peter Broune and James M’Pherson offered to ——— (word unknown,) the oxen for two score of dollars.”

Thomas ——— in Jocksleys—“that the Egyptians took possessne of yr kill in Jocksleys, they being whiles of men and women about 24 in number, and that Peter Broune and James M’Pherson came sometimes yr, and also Donald Broune.”

Thomas Milne in Jocksleys—“that the Egyptians, among whom were the pan-nals, took possne of his house, and stole his peats and kaill, and that sometymes they were twentie in number, and stayed 3 or 4 days yr at one tyme, and forced his neighbors to give them some fire weshells.”

John Sellar in Jocksleys—“that the pannals took ane kill at yr oun hand, and that they feared yr women, and that they were armed, and that they took yr kaill, and missed sheep after they were gone,” &c.

The most extraordinary part of the transaction is, that the guilt or innocence of the "three young rogues" seems to have been thought a matter not worth inquiring about. There is no appearance whatever of their having been named in the indictment, or produced in court, or of any endeavour to identify them or charge them with a crime. The mere fact of their being in prison, the good Sheriff seems to have thought "relevant to infer the pains of law." Very possibly, however, the "young rogues" may have got substantial, though not formal, justice.

The two Browns were sentenced, on the 21st February following, to be hanged on the 2d April. It appears, however, that M'Pherson alone of the four was executed. Probably Gordon was pardoned. The Browns are thought to have escaped. M'Pherson performed at the foot of the gallows, the "Rant" and Pibroch of his own composition, and then made offer of his violin to any one who would receive it as a remembrance of him. The gift being declined, he broke the violin, and threw the fragments into the grave prepared for his body.

The story of M'Pherson's being executed before the time specified in the sentence, in order to prevent his being benefited by an expected reprieve, is discredited.*

Antiquities.—The parish is almost wholly destitute of any remains of antiquity. Two cells of the Carmelite monastery (mentioned as existing at the time of the last Statistical Account) have for several years been removed, and given place to modern houses. Not far from the site of these, a small vaulted chamber, supposed to have been a sleeping cell, now affords accommodation to the boiler of a steam-engine employed at the foundery. Some arches, apparently parts of similar cells, yet exist behind the inn called the Royal Oak; and persons alive till a late period remembered of there having been a continuous line of such cells between the two points now indicated. This range of cells seems to have terminated the buildings of the monastery to the east, unless that an hospital, of which there is a tradition as existing about the site of the

* Very little tradition of M'Pherson remains in this the scene of his death. Several of the above particulars I owe to a notice in the *New Monthly Magazine*, Vol. i., and a *note* to "M'Pherson's Lament" in the *Ettrick Shepherd's* edition of Burns. One very old man informs me of being told by his grandfather, who was one of the guards at M'Pherson's execution, that the verses commonly circulated as spoken by M'Pherson on that occasion were really those uttered by him. A few of them that were repeated by my informant, corresponded most (if I rightly recollect) with the first set given by the *Ettrick Shepherd*.—The execution took place on the Gallowhill.

present bede-house, may have formed one of its appurtenances. The *yards* or garden grounds of the monastery, with its chapels and other dependencies, are supposed to have extended beyond the present southern limits of the town, and as far as the small remnants of the “Lodging” of the Earl of Airly in Duff House kitchen garden.

The precise time when this religious house was first established here is uncertain. It is supposed, on what authority I know not, to have been as early as the time of Malcolm the Maiden, or even of Malcolm Canmore. The charter granted by Robert Bruce evidently implies that it had existed before, probably long before, the date of that instrument, since it goes merely to confirm “Deo, beatæ Mariæ virgini, et religiosis viris Fratribus de Monte Carmele, capellam beatæ Mariæ juxta villam de Banff, una cum solo ad eandem capellam pertinente, ad ædificandum ibidem Ecclesiam et aliis domos sui ordinis, et ad inhabitandum dom. locum cum fratribus ejusdem ordinis, prout a summa pontifice eiisdem fratribus specialiter est concessum; præterea damus et concedimus hac presenti cartâ nostra confirmationis, fratribus ibidem deo servientibus, et servituris, illam davatam terræ cum pertinentiis quæ ad dictam capellam ante presentem collationem nostram pertinere solebat, ad inveniendum panem vinum et ceram ad cultum domini ibidem devotius exercendum.”

It is not perfectly clear whether the chapel of the blessed Mary here mentioned was one on the present site of Lord Fife’s mausoleum, or the old church (formerly called St Mary’s) on the burying ground of the town, but more probably the latter.

At the time of the Reformation, it is well known that many of the religious houses, foreseeing the difficulty of preserving their possessions, adopted the plan of feuing them out at a low consideration to powerful laymen; and a ready chapman of this description seems to have presented himself to the Carmelite brethren in the person of Sir Walter Ogilvie of Dunlugas,—an individual who appears to have been gifted with a rare turn for the acquisition of property.* In a charter dated 1544, the friars make over to Sir Walter the *Dawhaugh* and its pertinents, but reserve a certain space of ground (adjoining the site of Lord Fife’s mausoleum,)

* His tombstone, built into the old church wall, is one of the oldest monuments in the churchyard. The wonder is, that he did not contrive to get all the churchyard to himself.

and the grant makes no mention of, and cannot be supposed to comprehend, the houses and gardens of the monastery in the town. Sir Walter, however, appears to have subsequently become possessed of the whole, at least there is evidence of his descendants being soon after in possession; and these continued to hold the *yards* till a late period, parts of which, indeed, are still held by them, either in possession or as superiors.* Through these yards was formed, about the year 1770, the street called Bridge Street, now one of the principal thoroughfares of the town. The rest of the Carmelite lands, extending southward from the town, were successively conveyed (in 1630) to Lord Airly, and (in 1690) to Lord Fife. The superiority and feu-duties, which, in the year 1617, had been gifted by James VI. to King's College, Aberdeen, were also bought up, in 1752, by Lord Fife.

A few very old persons can yet remember some large massy ruins, standing on the space now occupied by the plainstones, called the *Towers*. These have probably been originally a part of the monastery, but are known to have been latterly a residence of the Lords Banff. In some old rights this building is styled a *palace*—a distinction it is supposed to have acquired in consequence of having been the temporary abode of certain of the Scottish kings, who, as appears from the date of some old charters, had visited the town. This building was demolished by General Monro, in August 1640, as is thus related in the History of the Gordons, (Vol. ii. p. 339,) “ Monro having marched to Bamff, (as said is,) encamped in Sir George Ogilvy, (afterward created by the King, Lord Bamff,) his garden, inclosed with excellent stone-walls, and planted with the best fruit-trees then could be had. All of which they immediately hewed down, not leaving one fruit-tree, or barren, young or old, standing; and they dug up all the hedges by the root. They entirely demolished his house there, one of the stateliest and finest in the north, and carried away all the timber and iron work in it, leaving nothing standing but the ruinous walls. When this barbarous act was told the King ('tis reported) he said, as for the house, it mattered not much, money could build it up again in a short time; but it was a cruel thing to destroy the garden, which many years could not repair.” Spalding also speaks

* The Magistrates of Banff pay a feu-duty for the site of the town-house to this day.

of the destruction of "the pleasant planting and fruitful young trees bravely growing within the laird of Banff's orchard and gardens," and of his "stately house of Banff," as "pitiful to see!" The gardens were the *yards* of the monastery, already mentioned.

The lands on which the sea-town now stands belonged to the chapel of the Holy Rood. This chapel is supposed to have stood on the Rose Crag (towards the present northern extremity of the castle-grounds;) another supposition is, that it was on the site of the old church.* The lands of this chaplainry were, in the year 1552, feued in perpetuity, by certain bailies and burgesses acting as commissioners of the town, with the consent of Mr James Currier or Currier, chaplain of the Holy Rood, to Sir Walter Ogilvy, then provost, for payment of forty shillings yearly to the chaplain. The moving causes for this conveyance are stated to be "*ob augmentationem rentalis dictæ capellanix Sancti Crucis de Banff pro perpetua sustentatione capellani ejusdem omni tempore affuturo fieri. ob divini cultus venerationem et exhibitionem et ad extirpandam heresim tamdiu eminentem ut omnis prorsum earum ambiguitas et recidat. quod fieri non poterit nisi interveniente et propitio magno dei numine et cum proximorum procerum ac primatum orthodoxam fidem tenen. et servan. ac precipue auxilio et defensione nobilis viri Walteri Ogilvie de Dunlugas, militis et prepositi nostri burghi de Banff, de nobis semper bene meriti, hinc igitur dedisse,*" &c. Two of the commissioners could not sign their names to the deed. From Sir Walter Ogilvie the lands were conveyed, along with the Carmelite lands, to the Laird of Braco; and, by him, in exchange for some lands near Duff House, to the town of Banff, to which they now afford a feu-duty.

Another chapel (dedicated to St Thomas the Apostle) is supposed to have stood somewhere between the sites of the present parish church and St Andrew's Chapel. Names still existing, St Ninian's, St Catherine's, &c. evince the once consecrated character of various localities in the town.

It is known that the Knights-Templars anciently held property in the burgh, and a house is still remembered (standing in the water-path, at the south corner of the lane passing between it and the Castle Street,) which bore the iron cross, the usual token by

* All existing notices regarding the chaplainry of the Holy Rood, and that on the site of the old church (whether the same, or different, or how endowed) are confused and obscure.

which the fraternity marked their possessions. A short distance from the town is a place called *Spittal mire*, supposed a corruption of *hospital mire*, perhaps from a house of that description belonging to the templars. It appears that when, on the abolition of the order of Knights St John, who succeeded the templars, their possessions were erected into a lordship in favour of Sir James Sandilands in 1563, many parts of these possessions were found to be so much scattered, and let for such insignificant rents or feu-duties, as not to be worth the attention of the new proprietors; and, in this way, probably, the possessions of the templars in this town have passed at length into common burgage tenures.

All that now remains of the ancient castle is a part of the outer wall and of the ditch. The house where Archbishop Sharp was born was pulled down about twenty years ago. One or two pieces of lettered freestone taken from it have been built into the church-yard wall, at the burial-ground of the Sharp family.

The castle was a constabulary or lodging for the King when visiting this part of his dominions, and where he, or, in his absence, the thane, or constable, or sheriff administered justice. These officers being named by the King, and moveable at pleasure, the castle seems always to have been public or royal property, until the Earl of Buchan, (who married, as formerly mentioned, Margaret Ogilvie of Auchterhouse,) was appointed hereditary thane or constable. From the Buchan family, the castle was conveyed to Robert Sharp, sheriff-clerk of Banff, elder brother of the famous archbishop, (the father, William Sharp, having had it before in feu.) The archbishop was murdered in 1679, and after Robert's death the castle descended to his brother's son, Sir William Sharp of Stonyhill, who resigned it to Leslie of Kininvie, from whom it passed to the Earl of Findlater *—whose heir, Lord Seafield, still holds it. Lord Seafield, it may be noted, was descended from the family of Auchterhouse, who formerly held the Castle.

The old Castle of Inchdrewer, supposed to have been built about the time of James IV. or V., is still so entire as to be habitable by the family of a tenant of Sir Robert Abercromby's. Its appearance possesses no peculiar feature of interest, and the only incident connected with it is the death of a Lord Banff who was burned in the year 1713, under some circumstances not very well explained. It is said that, having embraced the Roman Catholic

* The office of Sheriff was resigned by the Earl of Buchan to Baird of Auchmedden, and by him to Lord Findlater, who held it till the abolition of heritable jurisdictions.

religion, he had gone for some time to Ireland, engaged probably in some of the intrigues then carrying on in behalf of the Pretender; and it was suspected that the persons in whose charge he had left the Castle, having pillaged some of his valuable property, murdered him immediately after his return, and set his apartment on fire, for the sake of concealment. By some, it seems, the event was viewed as a judgment on his apostacy, and particularly with regard to some threats used by him, of burning the Protestants. This event might well have entitled the old castle to be haunted; but I have never heard that it enjoys that reputation.

A vaulted aisle of the old church still remains in the churchyard, and is a burying-place of the family of Lord Banff.

Adjoining Lord Fife's mausoleum is a very curious ancient monument, on which is represented the figure of an armed warrior recumbent, with the inscription, "Hic jacet Johanes Duf, de Maldavat et Baldavi, obiit 2 Julii 1404," &c. This monument, with the ashes of the deceased (an ancestor of Lord Fife,) was brought from Cullen.

Some years ago, in levelling a small hillock on Provost Cameron's farm of Poddocklaw, a stone coffin or case was found, inclosing a vase of baked earth, in which were some ashes and fragments of bones. In a tumulus dug into on a neighbouring farm, several of such vases were found, placed on a sort of stone bench, supported on blocks. On this bench some of the vases were inverted, others had a flat stone on the top, the whole being covered over with earth.

Within a few years also, in the course of digging the foundation of a new house on the *high shore*, at the foot of the Castlehill, a vessel was found containing a quantity of silver coins. They are about the size of sixpence, but very thin and greatly defaced, and covered with a green rust. Six of these coins (which the writer has seen) are in the possession of J. A. Cameron, Esq. Solicitor, —other six are in the museum of the Banff Institution. Of these coins one only presents a crowned head in profile, and the name *Alexander* is traceable round the edge. The obverse is quartered, in each quartering a star, and, around, *Rex Scotorum* is pretty visible. The other eleven are ascertained to be of the coinage of Edward II. of England.

In a small plantation of Lord Fife's on the Gallow-hill is a tumulus, having some appearance of being an ancient sepulchre; but it has never been opened.

Modern Buildings.—In the list of modern buildings, the first,

or rather the only one, as a piece of architecture, deserving mention, is Duff House, the splendid mansion of the Earl of Fife,—splendid as it is, still more so if the design were completed. It was built eighty or ninety years ago by William Lord Braco, after a design by Adams, the first of the celebrated architects of that name, at an expense of about L. 70,000. The style is purely Roman. The body of the house (for the wings have never yet been added) is of an oblong shape, and consists of four lofty stories. The first is a rustic basement, over which rise two stories adorned with fluted pilasters, and an entablature of the style of the temple of Jupiter Stator at Rome. Over this entablature, which goes round the whole structure, there is an attic story, surmounted by a balustrade. The four corners of the building have projections resembling towers, which break and vary the outline, and also rise to a greater height than the other parts of the attic story. These towers are adorned at the angles by an upper range of pilasters, with an entablature of the composite order, and are crowned at top by domical roofs, on which octagonal pedestal chimneys are placed. Both the entrance and back façades have also central projections surmounted by pediments, on which the family arms are cut in bas relief, which, with the appended achievements, fill the entire spaces of the face of the pediments. The entablature and capitals of the pilasters, as well as the smaller ornaments, are exquisitely carved, though some of these last, for what reason I know not, have been left unfinished. The back and front of the building are precisely alike, except that the basement part of the projection in front is occupied by an outer stair, of two circular ascents, with carved stone balustrades. The principal entrance is thus on the second story. From an arcade below the landing-place of the outer stair there is an entrance to the servants' hall.

Duff House, to be seen to advantage, requires to be beheld pretty near. There is too little variety of outline, and the colour of the material (freestone) is too dingy to strike at a distance. It is besides desirable that the eye should be diverted from the confused assemblage of chimneys and slated pavilions by which it is surmounted, which seem to create an incongruous mixture of the castellated and the classic styles. Seen so near as to discern the elaborate ornaments, the appearance of Duff House is in the highest degree rich, graceful, and majestic.

Duff House contains a large collection of paintings, many of which are interesting and valuable, either as specimens of art, or

as portraits of celebrated characters, and examples of the costume of various ages and countries. Among the more excellent of the former class may be enumerated a portrait, in perfect preservation, of the Constable de Bourbon, by Titian. This has been allowed by the best judges, both in this country and on the continent, to be one of the very finest specimens of the great Venetian colourist. A head of Charles I. by Vandyke, esteemed a most characteristic specimen of that master; a portrait, three-quarters length, of Lord Strafford, and a full-length of Lady Herbert, both by Vandyke, and regarded as very fine; a full-length portrait of the present Earl of Fife by Raeburn; an original portrait of Moliere; various portraits, chiefly of females, by Sir Peter Lely; portrait of Sir Godfrey Kneller by himself; portrait of Henderson, the Scottish preacher, by Jameson; portrait of Mrs Abingdon by Sir Joshua Reynolds, esteemed a beautiful specimen of that master; landscape by Ruysdael; a flower-piece, beautifully coloured, and esteemed a first rate specimen of art; a candle-light scene, by Schalcken; cattle-piece, by Cuyp; dog and monkey, with still life, by Snyders; a large landscape by Wynants; a landscape by Wouvermans; an infant Christ by Murillo; Virgin and child by Corregio; philosopher and skull by Quintin Matsys, the blacksmith of Antwerp; sea-piece by Backhuysen; shepherd with his flock by Rosa da Tivoli; landscape by Domenichino; head of Charles I. by Velasquez; two specimens of the rare Spanish painter Cano; a painting by Luca Giordani; Ostade's mother by himself, and several other excellent specimens of the Flemish and Dutch school, &c. Among those of the second class may be noticed, portraits of most of the English kings, from Henry V. to George II., including a full-length of Henry VIII. by Holbein, formerly in the possession of Sir Joshua Reynolds; portraits of Cromwell, Marlborough, Marshal Villars, Prince Eugene, Charles XII., Peter the Great, John Duke of Argyle, small head of Ludovico Caracci, &c. Respectable strangers are readily admitted, at all times, to view this collection.

Two years ago, a very handsome though small chapel was erected for the Episcopal congregation. It is in the Gothic style. The west front, of dressed freestone, is flanked by two carved minarets, and otherwise chastely but tastefully ornamented. The inside is finished in an appropriate manner, and has a very pleasing effect. The chapel possesses a good organ.

The parish church stands at the south side of the town, on a

highly advantageous site, being on a sort of platform projecting forward from the declivity on which the town is situated. In its outside appearance the church is perfectly plain. "The spire" (says the worthy writer of the old Statistical Account) "still remains in an unfinished state, which gives the whole building a heavy and awkward appearance. It is intended, however, to resume the work next season." I regret to say that the same words are still descriptive of the position of affairs in this particular, if, merely for "intended," we read "*not* intended." An attempt was lately made to raise funds by subscription for erecting a spire, according to a very handsome design, furnished by Mr Robertson, architect, of Elgin, but this purpose has not as yet succeeded. The inside of the church is sparingly but very tastefully decorated. The pulpit and galleries are of uncommon height; and the whole character of the interior is in a high degree light, airy, and spacious. A few years ago the church was very handsomely fitted up (by subscription) for burning gas lights.

In the interior of the church (though the parish burying-ground is not adjoining—the old church-yard* being still used for that purpose,) are four handsome monuments of marble, built into the walls. One of these is a very fine piece of sculpture by Bacon. It was erected, in addition to another in the cathedral church at Calcutta, by Sir David Ochterlony and the army under his command, to the memory of Lieutenant Peter Lawtie (a native of Banff.) It represents a soldier leaning over a funeral vase in an attitude of deep grief. The figure and draperies are exquisitely carved.

Of the other monuments, one is erected to the memory of the late Mr John Cruickshank, Rector of Banff Academy, by his former pupils; another to the memory of the late Mr A. Cassy (elsewhere mentioned as a benefactor of the town) erected by subscription. The remaining monument is a private one.

The town-house, built about forty years ago, is a very large, but entirely plain building, forming two sides of a square, with a spire rising from the external angle. The spire, which is much older than the house, is a sort of fluted cone, of very graceful proportions, rising from a square tower. The whole height of the spire is 100 feet. The tower, spire, and front of the house are built of dressed sandstone. The house is of three very lofty

* It may deserve mention that the burying-ground affords a favourable specimen, on a small scale, of what may be called *church-yard gardening*, being tastefully laid out, and adorned with flowers and shrubs.

stories. It contains a hall, two large drawing-rooms, Town-council Chamber, Sheriff-court Room, Town Chamberlain's and Sheriff Clerk's offices, and prisons. The staircase and landing-places are spacious.

There is a Trades' Hall, mason lodges, &c. but neither these nor any of the other buildings in the parish are, as buildings, deserving of any notice. It may be mentioned, however, that a few of the more considerable private houses lately built in the town have been designed with some degree of regard to architectural symmetry and decoration, and present rather handsome fronts. Almost every kind of building material is easily procured. Plain walls are generally built of a sort of soft blue slate. Window ribs, or whole fronts, are of dressed granite or sandstone. Bricks are also employed for slighter or more temporary purposes.

III.—POPULATION.

The population of the parish, at different periods, has been as follows :

In 1801 the population was 3571			
1811,	-	-	3603
1821,	-	-	3855
1831,	-	-	3711
Males in the town in 1831,	-	-	1229
Females,	-	-	1706
Total in the town,			2935
Males in the country,	-	-	360
Females,	-	-	416
			776
Total,	-	-	3711

The decrease between 1821 and 1831 is ascribed, in the Government return, to absence of public works and emigration.

The average of registered births for the last seven years is 62; of marriages, 25. There is no official register of deaths; but, from a private list kept by the grave-digger, the average number of burials, annually, in the church-yard of Banff, appears to be 55.

Lord Fife is the only heritor that has a residence in the parish. His Lordship has been living constantly at Duff House for more than two years past. Perhaps it would be difficult to name more than one or two other persons of independent fortune in the parish. There are only three proprietors of land of the yearly value of L. 50 or upwards.

The writer can learn of only 1 insane person in the parish, and 4 fatuous; of none blind (from natural causes;) nor of any deaf or dumb.

Language.—Among the higher and better educated classes, the English language may be heard spoken in tolerable purity, both

as to idiom and pronunciation: there are few who cannot express themselves in English, still fewer who do not familiarly understand it when distinctly spoken. Unmixed Scotch is never to be heard. The most common dialect is a mixture of Scotch and English, the Scotch used being of the somewhat vicious kind, known, I believe, by the name of the *Aberdeenshire*. The Scotch, however, is gradually wearing out. Every person remembers the frequent use, in former years, of terms and phrases that are now seldom to be heard but among the older and more secluded. Even, however, in what is called, by courtesy, speaking English, or using English words, there is often a sore lack of the genuine English pronunciation. The defect is not so much in the accentuation, as in the vowel and diphthongal sounds. Thus the three different sounds of the letter *a* in *far*, *fat*, *fault*, are all given alike, as in *far*. The sound of *i*, as in *him*, is made the same as *e* in *her*,—unless when some, flying from this Scylla of orthoepy, fall into the Charybdis of pronouncing it as if spelled *heem*. No difference is made between the two sounds of *o* in *pop* and *pope*, and the *oa* in *broad*. *Rod*, *rode*, *broad*, are all made to rhyme together. The long *a* (as in *made*) is pronounced like the English short *e*: *fed* and *fade* are pronounced just alike. Unaccented vowels are generally lost, or sounded like the French *e* in *le*. *Regular* is pronounced *regler* or *regeler*; *prelate*, *prelet*; *absolute*, *abscelet*. Even in the matter of pronunciation, however, there is a great and progressive improvement.

Character and Circumstances.—Generally speaking, the intellectual, moral, and religious character of the people deserves to be favourably mentioned; though, undoubtedly, among particular sections of the population, profligacy and vice is to be found prevailing in no inconsiderable degree. Perhaps vices of sensuality are more to be noted than those of injustice or inhumanity. Of poaching or smuggling there are scarcely any instances in the parish. The people are also, in general, very cleanly in their habits.

The poorer classes in the country subsist mostly on meal, milk, and vegetables, particularly potatoes, and kail, or colewort. Nearer the coast, fish may be easily had.

Both in town, among the trading and labouring classes, and in the landward part of the parish, among the crofters and small farmers, there are a considerable number of persons, who, if not in absolutely destitute, are in very straitened circumstances; and who, neither in regard to freedom from worldly anxiety, nor suf-

iciency of even the necessities of existence, can properly be said to enjoy a reasonable portion of the comforts of life. Even among these, however, discontent with their lot is not a remarkable feature—though (and particularly in the town) the want of the wholesome excitement which a prosperous course of industry creates, is often sought to be supplied by that which is to be derived from the use of spirituous liquors. Nor is it probably too favourable a judgment to pass on human conduct, to say, that habits of inebriety are, at least, as often the effect as the cause—they are undoubtedly both—of depressed worldly circumstances.

It is supposed that from 40 to 45 cases of illegitimate birth have occurred within the last three years.

Amusements.—It can scarcely be said that the people of the middle or lower classes now devote any but a mere insignificant part of their time to what could properly be called amusement. It would almost seem as if men had now outgrown the relish for amusement, or find amusement in what was once the business of life. Even children seem indifferent to the sports and pursuits with which the children of former days appeared to be absorbed. There is now a harder competition for the means of livelihood—anxieties inconsistent with the pursuit of amusement have taken hold of men's minds. An improved state of the practical arts makes every profession more difficult of acquisition, furnishes new occupation for ingenuity, new aims for mental activity, new subjects of emulation,—the diffusion of knowledge has created new desires, new ideas, new sources of excitement. From the increased diffusion of newspapers and cheap popular prints, a taste for reading has sprung up to a considerable extent. Such works as Chambers's Journal are frequently bought by farm-servants and artisans. Newspapers are circulated as long as the texture of the paper holds together, or its colour can be distinguished from that of the printer's ink. The recent political excitements, indeed, whatever may be their good or evil tendencies otherwise, have doubtless tended to increase or create an appetite for knowledge: there being few political questions that do not, at least indirectly, excite a curiosity, and lead to inquiries, touching a variety of extrinsic subjects in history, geography, statistics, arts, commerce, &c. A man who sets up for a politician finds occasion to learn a great many things besides politics.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.—The extent of cultivated land in the parish is 3778 imperial acres; of uncultivated and pasture lands, 1161

acres. Of the last mentioned, there are 215 acres (on the estate of Sir Robert Abercromby,) the improvement of which has been conditioned for. Some maintain that there is yet a quantity of waste land in the parish that might be profitably improved, others that cultivation is already over extended. There is no undivided common. The number of acres under wood is 223. *

In the grounds of Duff House, which comprise most of the planting in the parish, are to be found ash, elm, beech, plane, birch, lime, maple, oak, horse-chestnut, mountain-ash, and various species of firs. Here there seems to have been rather too little done as regards the affairs of thinning and pruning, &c.—(principally, it is alleged, from an indisposition to diminish the shelter for the game,) and much of the wood is of very slender growth.

What other planting is in the parish belongs to Lord Seafield, and consists mostly of firs; but, from age and thinning together, may be described as rather verging to decay. Sir Robert Abercromby is at present in the intention of planting some belts and clumps on his property in the upper part of the parish, and about fifty imperial acres have been laid off for that purpose.

About a mile from the town, is a very considerable nursery for plants of all kinds, suitable to the climate.

Rent of Land.—The average rent of arable land in the parish may be stated at about 16s. per acre. It varies from 5s. to L. 2.

* This statement is made up from the best existing data, namely, from accounts procured of the lands belonging to each proprietor in the parish: but, as there have been, as regards the greater part, no late survey, its exact correctness cannot be warranted. The total amount which it furnishes is 5162 imperial acres; and after making allowance for the space occupied by the town of Banff, roads, &c. the whole extent of the parish would fall short of that stated in Robertson's map, viz. 6312 acres.

The map, however, includes in the parish of Banff a tract of perhaps 100 acres, on the river side, (from about the cruive dike to the bridge of Alva,) considered by the agent of Lord Fife, the proprietor, to be in the parish of Alva, and not included in the present computation—also a space, which may be guessed at 500 acres on this side of the burn of Boyndie, similarly stated, by the agents of Lord Seafield, the proprietor, to be in the parish of Boyndie.

The boundaries of the two parishes are thus fixed in the decret of disjunction 1635: "Ye said parochine of Banff to have includit yairintill ye toun of Banff, with ye pendicles of ye samyn as it had of before, and to have adjoynd yairto out of ye said parochine of Inverboyndy ye landis of Ord, Inchdrower, with ye pendicles yrof; the lands of Blairshimnoch, Kilbeuchlie, Paddocklaw, and Cullinortis, ye whilk haill landis and parochine lyes on the eist side of the burne of Inverboyndy; and the said parochine of Inverboyndy to have includit yairin as the particular boundis of ye parochine of the samyn, the haill lands lyand betwixt the burne of Boyne at the west, the burne of Inverboyndy at the east, the sea on the north, and the landis of park of Corncairn at the south pairtis."

It seems the general understanding at present that, at least, the lands of Easter Baldavie and Raggal, with the plantations of Baldavie (all on this side of the burn of Boyndie,) belong to the parish of Boyndie—and these lands are not *specified*, (unless under the name of "pendicles") in the *enumeration* of those which compose the parish of Banff.

The average rent of grazing is at the rate of about L. 1, 15s. per ox or cow grazed, or 7s. per ewe or sheep.

Wages.—The ordinary wages of farm-servants is from L. 4, 10s. to L. 6 half yearly.

Farm-labourers, according to the length of the day and other circumstances, receive from 9d. to 1s. 6d. per day; country wrights, 1s. 4d.; masons, 2s. 6d.:—all these rates with victuals.

Prices.—Wool is sold at 1s. 6d. to 2s. per pound of 22 oz. Other species of raw produce for home use are rarely bought or sold, being generally grown by each consumer for his own particular use. Riddles cost from 2s. 6d. to 4s., sieves 3s. 6d., but these are now seldom used, most of the mills being furnished with sifters; corn baskets (called blind sieves) 1s. 6d.; coarse wicker baskets for carrying weeds, peats, potatoes, &c. 1s.; a sort of bass made of heather is sold for 2s. 6d.

Mason work varies from L. 1, 5s. to L. 2 per rood. Carpenter's work for the various descriptions, as follows: Flooring and joisting from 3s. 6d. to 5s. 6d. per yard; slate roofing, including rafters, from 5s. 9d. to 8s. 6d. per yard; tile roofing, including rafters, from 3s. 9d. to 4s. 9d. per yard; windows, from 2s. 3d. to 2s. 9d. per foot; double lath partitions (with plaster) 2s. 6d.; doors from 10s. to 18s.; stairs 4s. 6d. to 10s. 6d. per yard.

Live Stock.—The parish is not a sheep district; the small number kept in it are mostly of the Cheviot breed. The breed of cattle is the result of various crosses, which do not appear to have tended much to its improvement; and they have occasioned the loss of a very good breed, formerly known by the name of the old Banffshire breed. Altogether, the parish is not conspicuous for its improvements in this department. Perhaps, however, the now extensive use of bone manure, by which an increased quantity of winter keep is produced, may be the means of improving the breeds of cattle. At one period cattle was rather the staple produce of the district: latterly, it has become more a grain country. The plan of husbandry in universal use is the rotation of crops for five, six, or seven years, the latter period being most common.

Husbandry.—In the course of the last forty years, perhaps one-fifth of the present arable land in the parish has been brought into cultivation. Draining has also been effected to a very large extent. On one farm alone (Blairshinnoch, in the occupation of Mr A. Milne,) 16,000 ells have been formed in the course of the last six years.

Still there is great room for improvement in this way—perhaps more in this than in any other way that could be mentioned.

Some years ago a considerable improvement was effected by the straightening of the burn of Boyndie.

The ordinary duration of lease is nineteen years. This, if not generally complained of, is by some considered to be of too short duration, in respect that, as farms may be generally supposed to be left, by outgoing tenants, in a somewhat impoverished condition, the new entrants can scarcely have time, in a period of nineteen years, to bring them properly into condition, so as to reap the benefit of their outlay before the termination of the lease.

The greater part of the lands in the parish are enclosed and subdivided with substantial stone dikes; and the farm-houses and offices good and sufficient—some of them superior to the generality of farm accommodation, even in an improved district such as this parish. Any deficiency that exists in this respect may perhaps be owing to its being the more general practice in the district, that the *tenants* erect the farm accommodations, receiving an allowance at the end of their lease; and the consequent inducement they have to lock up, in this way, as little of their capital as possible.

Quarries.—The granite at Cairns of Ord (mentioned in the *Geological* section) is of excellent quality for building, and has been wrought for that purpose; but, owing to its distance from the sea, not to such an extent as it would otherwise have been. The different species of rocks already described as existing in the parish are also in some places quarried for building materials; but (unless at the time when the new pier was constructing) there have never been any considerable operations in this way; partly because the peculiar sort of stones afforded are not much prized for building, and partly because there is no great quantity of building going on to require stones of any sort.

Fisheries.—All the different kinds of white fish used for food that are to be found in the sea adjoining the parish are fished for, and brought to market, but only by individual fishermen on their own account, and therefore not on any great scale. It is the opinion of some, however, that if the cod, ling, and turbot fishery were prosecuted in this parish on a scale of sufficient extent, it might soon become of importance. These fish are said to be very plentiful about twenty-five or thirty miles off the coast.

Lobsters and crabs are sold in the local markets, and peri-

winkles, besides, have of late been sent to the London market to good account. There is also abundance of shrimps to be found, but they have never been fished for to any extent.

The rent of the salmon-fishing in the river (Lord Fife, proprietor,) is L. 1600 a year. There are also bag-net fishings in the sea on each side of the river's mouth. That on the east side is Lord Fife's, and included in one tack with the river fishing. That on the west side is let by the town of Banff for L. 191 yearly; but their right is called in question by Lord Fife, and at present the subject of litigation.

The salmon are sent by steam, either pickled or packed in ice, principally to the London market.

The herring fishery on the east coast of Scotland was for many years almost exclusively confined to the coast of Caithness and Sutherland; but about the year 1815, owing to the encouragement given by Government in the shape of bounties, together with the assistance of well qualified persons to superintend the cure and brand the herring barrels, the fishing of herrings was commenced on the coasts of Aberdeenshire, Banffshire, Morayshire, and Ross-shire. It was soon discovered that the herrings were of as good quality on the south side of the Murray Frith as on the north, and equally abundant; and this trade, from a very small beginning, has grown to be flourishing and extensive; and, though the bounties have been withdrawn, the herring fishery is still carried on with great spirit.

The quantity cured in the district of the Banff Fishery Officer, which extends from Gardenstown to Portsoy, in favourable seasons, is about 30,000 barrels. Of this quantity, nearly one-half is exported to Germany; a considerable part is sent to London for the supply of the West India islands, and the remainder goes generally to Ireland. The following table exhibits the state of the herring fishery, as regards the port of *Banff* alone, for the last five years.

		1831.	1832.	1833.	1834	1835.
No. of barrels cured,	-	1759	1959	1265	938	631
— boats employed,	-	14	16	18	22	8
— fishermen,	-	56	64	72	88	32
— women in curing and packing,	41	46	48	60	21	
— coopers,	-	6	6	6	8	4
— curers,	-	5	5	5	6	4

About the year 1819, the number of herring boats from the port of Banff was perhaps not short of 70. The decrease latterly I have never heard accounted for in any way that does not mainly resolve into mere matter of chance, or otherwise, by reference to some of those unaccountable prejudices and superstitions

which people connected with sea-faring employments are so apt to take up. The two years preceding the last were indeed eminently unsuccessful; but any discouragement thence arising does not seem to have affected the district generally, as it has done this particular port. There is no doubt a want of space near the harbour for the erection of suitable premises; but even the space that exists is not now employed. The existence of a higher rate of shore dues at Banff than at some neighbouring ports is also stated to have a discouraging effect; but still this cause does not operate in a higher degree now than formerly.

Shipping.—The number of vessels now registered at Banff Custom-house is as follows :

<i>No. of Vessels.</i>	<i>Denomination.</i>	<i>Tonnage.</i>
1	Brig,	155
18	Schooners,	1567
48	Sloops,	2579
Total, 67		4301

Of these 10 schooners (878 tons,) and 11 sloops (657 tons,) belong to the port of Banff; the remainder belong to the creeks of Fraserburgh, Gardenstown, Macduff, Portsoy, Port-Gordon, and Garmouth, in the district of the port.

The vessels of this and the neighbouring ports are generally employed in carrying grain, herrings, salmon, live cattle, and cured pork to London, and some other places in the south, and return with coals, groceries, &c. &c. Some of them take occasional voyages to Sweden for iron and deals; to Russia for hemp; and Holland, for flax. They also in autumn go frequently to Hamburgh with herrings, from whence they get cargoes of grain, wool, bark, hides, &c. to London, Hull, and the Frith of Forth. A great proportion of the herrings which are sent to the Prussian ports in the Baltic is shipped by Prussian vessels, because these vessels, having to return home at any rate, take them for a somewhat lower freight, and the Prussian merchants who purchase the herrings frequently order them to be shipped by their own vessels. But British vessels are also employed in carrying herrings to the Baltic; and, upon the whole, this part of the trade is pretty fairly divided between the ships of Britain and Prussia.

There are four vessels (a schooner and three smacks) regularly engaged in the London trade, two in the Leith, and two principally in the Aberdeen trade.

The exporting of live-cattle to London was first tried, as a speculation, in 1826, and since that time has formed a regular branch

of trade. During the year 1834, 440 head of live-cattle were sent to London by sea, besides 911 pigs, and 156 sheep and lambs.

The exportation of grain from this port has increased in a very great degree during the last twenty years. In the course of the year 1834, 29,790 quarters of oats were shipped *at Banff*, all, with a trifling exception, for London;* 1174 quarters of wheat, and 976 quarters of barley and bear, mostly for Leith and London; also a small quantity of oatmeal, pease, and potatoes. 194 bags of potato flour were shipped for Leith.

Very few foreign vessels land at Banff harbour, though many come into neighbouring ports within the range of the custom-house of Banff. These are principally from Norway, with birch timber for herring barrels.

In the year 1813 a Greenland whale fishing company was formed, and two vessels fitted out. In the course of a year or two, however, one of the vessels was wrecked in a storm soon after going out of the harbour; the insurance was only recovered after a litigation; and as, besides this discouragement, the vessels had been unlucky in their fishings, and the price of oil was falling, the concern was abandoned at a very serious loss to the partners.

Banff is the principal station of a party of the coast guard. The commander's district extends from Speymouth to Rattrayhead. Their watch-house is at the battery.

Manufactures.—There are premises on the high ground above the harbour, fitted, both by extent and supply of water, for carrying on the brewing trade on a large scale. Of late, however, the business has been little farther extended than to supply home consumption. It is stated that the demand for malt liquor is immensely reduced by the increased distillation of spirits. The brewery employs 9 or 10 persons.

The foundry was established about nine years ago by Messrs Fraser. They execute every species of cast metal work, machinery, grates, ploughshares, &c. &c. and to a very considerable extent. A blast fanners attached to the furnace is driven, and mechanical power supplied for all departments of the work, by a steam engine of six horse power, constructed on the high pressure

* In the list of places in the whole kingdom supplying the London market with grain, Banff ranks among the highest as regards amount; but this is taking in the importations from all the ports from Fraserburgh to Garmouth, inclusive vessels from which *clear out* at the custom-house of Banff. The total quantity of grain exported from Banff (including these other ports) in 1834, was 132,377 quarters of grain, and 660 tons of meal; in 1835, 94,067 quarters of grain, and 362 tons of meal.

principle. This engine was wholly made by the Messrs Fraser, the proprietors. There are about 10 persons employed at this establishment.

The distillery is at Mill of Banff, about a mile from the town on the Huntly road. From 11,000 to 12,000 gallons of spirits at proof are produced here yearly. There are 6 or 8 persons employed—generally about fifteen hours a day.

There is a small manufactory of ropes and sails for home use. Ship-building is only carried on occasionally.

A somewhat considerable thread and stocking manufactory, which was carried on here at the time of the last Statistical Account, was discontinued about twenty years ago. The proprietors enjoyed a patent for a species of stocking-frame, but farther improvements in machinery enabled the English manufacturers to undersell them. The thread manufactory was kept up for a considerably longer period; but the increasing use of cotton instead of thread was gradually lessening the demand for it.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Town.—The town of Banff consists of two parts, completely separated, of which the first (which may be called the body of the town) lies partly on the lower extremity of the plain on the river side, already described, partly on the declivity; the other part (called the sea-town) on an elevated level, which generally terminates abruptly within a small distance of the sea, by which it is bounded. Seen from the low ground beyond the river, the sea-town appears to stand on a long ridge, having the battery at its northern extremity. On a piece of table-land projecting midway from between the town and sea-town, stands the castle, nearly opposite the river mouth, and commanding an extensive and varied prospect, the sea, the town, and hill of Macduff, the sweep of the river and beautiful opposite slope, surmounted by the wood of Mountcoffer. The castle is a plain modern building with wings.

The streets, though composed of houses of unequal size, are generally straight, and not deficient in width. The High Street, Castle Road, and a street in the sea-town terminating in the battery, form a continuous line from south to north, of above half a-mile in length. Within the last few years, many of the older houses have been pulled down and replaced by others; and there is scarcely a building now remaining which would indicate the antiquity of the town.

Some years ago it was proposed to form a new street to the south-

west of the town, entering from the Huntly road, and passing through to St Catherine Street; but the scheme was abandoned from want of the concurrence of some of the proprietors in the proposed line.

A gas-work was established by a joint-stock company in 1831. The quantity of gas consumed in the year ending May 15, 1834, was 456,213 cubical feet; in 1835, 463,547 cubical feet.

In 1830, a new and very commodious market-place was laid out in a central part of the town, with complete accommodations of sheds, stalls, &c.

A few years ago, public baths were erected by a joint-stock company. They are fitted up in a very convenient manner for hot, cold, and shower baths. They are open every day in summer, and once or oftener a-week during the remainder of the year.

Notwithstanding that about L. 1100 was laid out in the year 1810 for the conveyance of water into the town by pipes, the supply in the summer season, in the public cisterns, is often extremely deficient. On many premises, however, there are pump-wells.

Means of Communication.—The post-office in the town of Banff is the only one in the parish; but this office has three sub-offices attached to it, at Aberchirder on the road to Huntly, and New Pitsligo and Brucklaw on the road to Peterhead; also a penny post-office at Macduff. There are daily mails to and from Aberdeen and the south, to and from Inverness and the north, and to and from Peterhead; also a direct mail three times a-week to and from Fraserburgh, and the same to and from Huntly. The revenue of the post-office of Banff, stated at the period of the last Statistical Account to be but L. 800, was, in 1829, (after deduction of dead and re-sent letters) L. 1284; since that year the revenue has been regularly decreasing, being for the present year (1835) ending 5th December, only L. 1131. A very considerable portion of the revenue is derived from the correspondence with the northern parts of the continent, on account of the herring fishery.

The length of the turnpike road passing through the parish in the line from Aberdeen to Inverness, and extending from the west end of the bridge of Banff to a bridge across the burn of Boyndie, is (exclusive of a part which forms the High Street of the town) about two miles and a-half, perhaps a little more.

The turnpike road from the harbour of Banff to a point on the south-eastern boundary of the parish (at the road leading to the farm of Wardend) when it enters into the parish of Alva, is also two miles and a-half.

There is a daily stage-coach to and from Aberdeen, and to and from Elgin; and a daily mail-coach to and from Peterhead; an open car also runs daily between Huntly and Banff; a coach twice a-week between Keith and Banff; occasionally there have been others. All the mails (except to Peterhead) are conveyed by gigs or foot-posts.

The Doveran is passed, near the town, by a handsome and substantial stone bridge of seven semicircular arches, having a free water-way of 142 yards length. The parapets and abutments are of freestone. The bridge was built at the expense of Government in 1779. The burn of Boyndie, on the west of the parish, is passed by a stone bridge of two arches. Both these bridges are in complete repair. Lower down on the burn of Boyndie, and where it is crossed by the old road, is another bridge of two arches. Along the whole line of the turnpike roads in the parish are substantial stone fences or hedges.

Harbour.—The harbour of Banff is situated at the western extremity of a circular bay, at the opposite extremity of which is the town and harbour of Macduff. The two extremities of the bay are rocky. The middle of it is a beach of sand and shingle cast up by the meeting of the river Doveran with the sea. The mouth of the river is sometimes at one, sometimes at another, part of this beach, but is most commonly near the land, and along the roadway leading from the town of Banff to the harbour.

The old or inner harbour (completed in the year 1775) is a triangular space enclosed within two piers and the land, the entrance being at the exterior angle facing the N. N. E. In 1816, however, a new pier and break-water covering the old entrance was constructed to the north of the old harbour, and a basin formed in the intervening space, according to a plan furnished by the late Mr Telford. The expense of these improvements amounted to about L. 18,000, one-half of which was furnished by Government out of the proceeds of the forfeited estates. Unfortunately the new basin was found not to be a safe haven, as was sufficiently proved by the circumstance of vessels being wrecked when fairly moored within it. It has since, too, been almost filled up with sand, an increase of which it has also been the means of creating in the old harbour. Still the new pier has been of considerable use in several respects. It prevents all swell and agitation in the old harbour, which is now perhaps the safest artificial haven in the Moray Frith. It also affords some additional facilities for bringing vessels in or out. It is

supposed by some that, by means of flood-gates, the new basin might yet be rendered a safe place for shipping.

The present depth of water at the extremity of the new pier is, at low-water of spring tides, 4 feet 7 inches; of neap-tides, 6 feet 11 inches. A vessel drawing 12 feet water can enter the new basin at high water of ordinary neap-tides; one drawing 15 feet at spring-tides. This depth, however, is only towards the outer part of the basin, owing to the accumulation of sand farther in. A vessel can enter the old harbour at high water of ordinary neap-tides, if drawing 8 feet, spring-tides $10\frac{1}{2}$ feet.

A Morton's patent slip apparatus is now in the course of being laid down at the harbour.

Municipal State.—The circumstance, that William the Lion gave a toft and garden in the burgh of Banff to his chaplain Douglas, Bishop of Moray, in 1165, (similar gifts being made in Inverness, Nairn and Cullen, all royal burghs at this period,) makes it probable that Banff possessed the privileges of royalty before that time. Tradition makes these privileges to have been conferred by Malcolm Canmore. They were confirmed by Robert Bruce. Robert II., in 1372, again confirmed them, together with such privileges and liberties as were enjoyed by the town of Aberdeen. Farther confirmations were given by James VI. and Charles II.

In the municipal government of the burgh, there has all along been this peculiarity, that the burgh taxes and assessments are imposed, not by the magistrates and council, as is the usual practice in other burghs, but by the inhabitants assembled in head court.

There is no regular police or night watch in the town. Two town serjeants perform all the duties of police officers. Offences against the peace are taken cognizance of by either the Sheriff, the Justices, or the magistrates, in their respective courts, to each of which is attached a separate procurator-fiscal of its own, whose duty it is to prosecute offenders.

When the property of the town (in lands, fishings, &c.) is balanced against its debts, the residue would appear to be rather inconsiderable. The sum of L. 482, 9s. 11d. is raised annually, by assessment on the inhabitants, for the defraying of current expenses, as streets, water, lamps, &c.

Banff, on the whole, can scarcely be pronounced a thriving place. It is not increasing either in size or population; and probably few if any of the inhabitants are accumulating capital. Families seem to be dying away or becoming dispersed faster than new ones come

in their places. Yet few towns of its size present more attractions than Banff. It possesses both coast and inland scenery of a superior description; is particularly healthy; has excellent schools, variety of places of worship, abundant markets, regular and frequent posts, baths, literary institutions, society equal to what is generally to be found in a remote country town. No very good reason can be assigned for its want of prosperity, unless, perhaps, the deficiency of space about the town for manufacturing or commercial purposes, or for the erection of suburban villas. The town is hemmed in on two sides by great proprietors. On the one hand, Lord Fife is pushing us into the sea, on the other, Lord Seafield jams us close to the river; yet, to say the truth, there seems little use made of even what space exists. A linen manufactory was lately projected, but failed. Indeed, most enterprizes of any extent that have ever been attempted in the town have turned out unfortunate.

Ecclesiastical State.—The church was built in 1790, and is capable of containing 1500 persons. It is substantial and in complete repair. The average number of communicants is 700. The age of the manse is not very well known; indeed it has been built at different times. Soon after the settlement of the present incumbent, in 1821, it was in contemplation to erect a new manse; but the incumbent agreed to accept, instead, an annual allowance with the old manse. The glebe contains 7 acres or more, and at one time rented so much as L. 45, but now falls very considerably short of that value.* The stipend, about four years ago, was augmented to 18 chalders, half meal, half barley.

A chapel in connexion with the Established Church has just been completed at the upper end of the parish, about half a mile from its extremity. The expense of its erection and that of a manse (together about L. 400) has been raised by church collections and subscriptions of heritors and others. It accommodates, without galleries, 300 persons. All the sittings have been rented, and demands made for many more. The minister's living is derived from the seat rents, L. 20 being added from the Royal Bounty.

The number† of families composing the Roman Catholic con-

* An arrangement has just been made, under which an act of Parliament is about to be applied for, to authorize the feuing of the glebe; and the lower part of it is already fixed upon as the site of the educational institution about to be erected by Mr Wilson's trustees.

† The numerical statements regarding the different congregations are only to be considered as furnishing a general idea, the accounts being, in some cases, mostly matter of guess, and appearing to be not always made up on similar principles.

gregation is 17. The number of persons altogether, 84. For about ten years past, there has been no resident clergyman of this persuasion in Banff. Service is performed once a fortnight, by a clergyman who resides at Portsoy. His living arises from seat rents, with some addition from the general fund of the Catholic church. The Bishop (of Germanicia) resides at Priestholm, in the parish of Rathven.

The number of persons attending the Episcopal chapel is about 300, of whom about 250 reside in the parish.

The congregation established here in 1780, in connexion with the Relief body, separated from that connexion in 1808, and adopted the Independent form. A new church, capable of containing upwards of 400 persons, was completed for the service of this congregation last year, at an expense of about L. 500. The number of families regularly attending is about 45; of persons altogether about 220, of whom, however, only about 90 reside in the parish.

A congregation in connexion with the United Associate Synod was formed in 1822, and a substantial and commodious church erected in the low part of the town, at an expense of about L. 800. It is capable of containing 500 persons. The number of families attending is 50; of persons altogether 200; but of these about 100 are from other parishes.

The livings of the ministers, respectively, of the Episcopal, Secession, and Independent churches, are made up from the seat rents and collections or subscriptions,—a certain *minimum* amount being, in each case, guaranteed by the hearers.

A congregation of Wesleyan Methodists was first formed in Banff about the year 1775, but a chapel was not erected for their special accommodation until 1820. It cost about L. 320, is without galleries, and capable of containing 300 persons. The whole number of persons regularly attending is about 100, (about 40 of whom belong to the parish,) of families 20. The ministers are maintained partly by an allowance from the general funds belonging to this religious body, partly by contributions from their hearers.

At all the places of worship in the parish divine service is in general well attended.

A branch of the Bible Society, auxiliary to the Edinburgh institution, was formed here in 1824. It has generally from 60 to 80 members or contributors, and its funds average about L. 15 annually.

At each of the parish, Secession, and Independent churches,

there are monthly or weekly meetings held, and contributions made for religious purposes. The whole amount thus collected will probably not exceed L. 25 per annum.

The average amount of extraordinary collections in the parish church for the last five years, (after deduction, in each case, of a sum equal to an ordinary collection,) has been L. 25. About three-fifths of the amount has been devoted to charitable, the remainder to religious purposes.

Education.—An academy was formed in 1786,* under the directions of Dr Chapman, formerly rector of the grammar school at Dumfries, and author of a work *on Education* of some character at that period. The classes are taught by a rector and two masters: Latin, Greek, and French by the rector; writing and mathematics, together with book-keeping, geography, and navigation, by one of the masters; English reading, elocution, and grammar, by the other. Drawing is also taught by a separate master. The expense of education varies, of course, according to the number and description of branches in which each pupil takes lessons; but the highest expense for a (principally) classical education, does not ordinarily exceed 12s. 6d. per quarter; for a trading education, 9s. 6d.; an elementary, 6s. Course of book-keeping, L. 1, 1s.; navigation, 10s. 6d.; French, 10s. 6d.

The number of boys attending the academy has, of late years, been about 150; of girls at separate hours, about 20. Each of the masters, besides the fees of his class, receives a certain fixed sum from the town. The rector also has the salary of parish schoolmaster.

The academy has 16 bursaries, one of which (in the disposal of the Presbytery of Fordyce) is of the annual value of the interest of L. 600. The value of the other 15 is from L. 2 to L. 3, 4s. †

* There is evidence of there having been a grammar school at Banff, as far back as 1544. The charter (formerly mentioned) granted by the Carmelite brethren, to Sir Walter Ogilvie of Dunlugas, bears to be witnessed, among others, “Gulliermo Clerk, preceptore scholæ grammatices de Banff.”

In the year 1585, Bishop Cunningham of Aberdeen granted a charter, confirmed by James VI. in 1592, assigning the tenths of the King's rents of certain lands in the county, for the maintenance of grammar schools in Banff; the teacher to be appointed by the Provost, Bailies, and Town Council of Banff, but the trial of his fitness to be with the Bishops of Aberdeen, or, failing them, the principal of King's College, Aberdeen. These tenths amounted to L. 44, 10s. 6d. per annum; but it does not appear that they have, up to a late period, or even ever been drawn. The charter, (but recently discovered,) has been printed, with some additional notices regarding the ancient state of the school.

† Three of these were endowed by Bailie Winchester,—of whom, as formerly mentioned, the Laird of Gight borrowed a trifle in 1644.

There is a private unendowed school in the town, called the Commercial School, at which the number of boys attending as regular day-scholars, varies from 40 to 60 ; of other boys, at separate hours, from 15 to 20 ; of girls, at separate hours, about 30. Here the fee for reading and writing together is 4s. 6d. per quarter ; for English reading and grammar, writing and arithmetic, together, 6s. 6d. per quarter ; geography and higher mathematics, 7s. 6d. ; navigation, 10s. 6d. ; book-keeping, single, 7s. 6d., double, 15s.

In 1804, Mr Alexander Pirie, merchant in Banff, left the sum of L. 1100 in trust to the town-council and kirk-session, for the maintenance (from the yearly interest) of a free school,—a feu in the sea-town, and an additional sum of L. 100, being at the same time assigned by him for the erection of a school and schoolmaster's house. The school is open to all poor children (able to read the catechism) whom the trustees may admit ; and instruction is given in reading, writing, arithmetic, and church music. The usual number of scholars of late has been from 70 to 80.

There are several unendowed boarding and day-schools for young ladies under the direction of highly accomplished teachers ; the branches taught, and terms, being such as are usual in other similar establishments.

There is a female charity school, under the management of the parish minister and a committee of ladies. The salary of the teacher is made up from subscriptions, and a small annual payment from a charitable bequest. The number of girls generally attending is from 50 to 60. They receive instruction in reading, writing, sewing, and knitting. One penny a-week is paid by each scholar to assist in procuring school-books and stationery. The right of admitting scholars is vested in the subscribers.

The exact number of persons in the parish who cannot read or write is not ascertained ; but after inquiries made among a great variety of persons, I feel warranted in saying, that, if there are any cases of this description, the number is altogether insignificant. This is sufficient evidence of the value attached to education by the people of the parish ; but matters having been always pretty much the same in this respect, there are no data, in the particular case, for calculating the effect produced on moral habits by increased facilities of instruction.

Similar circumstances to those that created occasion for an additional church in the upper part of the parish, make an additional

school in the same place to be also wanted. The want would be greater, but that there is, at present, a private school in the upper part of the parish of Boyndie, so near the boundary of this parish as to accommodate a part of the population of its middle and upper districts.

Literary Institutions.—A Literary Society was instituted in 1810, by five boys (the most advanced of whom had only obtained the standing of three sessions at College.) The institution originally embraced two objects,—the formation of a library, and meetings for delivery of essays and discussion of literary subjects. But the latter object was, after a time, necessarily abandoned, from the paucity of persons having resources for contributing to it. The library now contains above 2000 volumes.

Connected with the Literary Society by a sort of *federal* union, is the reading-room, where have been usually taken in five or six of the principal quarterly and monthly periodicals, two daily London, and some Edinburgh and provincial newspapers. Some difficulty, however, has been found of late in supporting the expense of this establishment, and its continuance seems somewhat doubtful.

In 1828 was founded an institution for the cultivation of science, and the discovery and encouragement of native talent. The institution has occasionally held meetings for scientific discussions; but similar difficulties, as in the case of the Literary Society, have been felt in carrying this part of its plan into complete effect. Its conductors, however, have succeeded in collecting a museum of natural history, antiquities, and curiosities, which would do no discredit to ampler time and means, than have actually been enjoyed by them, and which, it is believed, few, if any, collections north of Edinburgh can equal. In particular, the collection of shells, consisting of many thousand specimens of the rarest and most beautiful kinds to be met with in Java, and throughout the eastern Archipelago, are well deserving of notice. There is a considerable variety of dresses, weapons, manufactures, and utensils of the natives of India and Australia; many mineral and zoological specimens, coins, idols, &c. The institution also possesses some valuable books; among others, the printed Public Records of Great Britain, presented by Government; and, for scientific purposes, they are furnished with a transit and clock, a six feet reflecting telescope, together with an assortment of meteorological instruments from the best London makers.

By the kindness of the magistrates, the two large drawing-rooms

in the town-house have been allowed for the accommodation of the Literary Society and Scientific Institution.

The Established Church, Episcopal, Secession, and Independent chapels, have each a small library belonging to it. There is also a trades' library, open to master, journeymen, and apprentice, tradesmen. All these libraries are maintained by voluntary donations, or subscriptions almost nominal. The collection belonging to the Independent chapel was begun in 1814, and contains 320 volumes. Here also there is a juvenile library of 364 volumes. The other collections are smaller. The advantages to be derived from these libraries, though not neglected, do not appear to be so eagerly sought after as might be wished. Probably the means at the disposal of the conductors will not always afford the selections best adapted for the readers. *

Benevolent Institutions.—About the year 1755, or soon after, Dr Alexander Strachan, physician in Banff, built a small house in the low part of the town, and left it, under the management of the magistrates and kirk-session, as a residence to four poor persons, bestowing, at the same time, a small sum of money and additional space of ground, now jointly yielding (after payment of certain feu-duties) an annual sum of L. 1, 3s. 6d. applicable to the upholding and repairs of the house.

By a will, dated at Bombay, 7th November 1769, Mr George Smith, a native of the parish of Fordyce, in the county of Banff, vested in the magistrates of Banff the management of such residue of his estate as might arise out of certain legacies bequeathed by him to relatives of whose existence at the time he was uncertain; and which, after the lapse of five years, might remain unclaimed by them: appointing the sum of L. 1000 to be applied to the endowing of an infirmary in Banff or Fordyce; L. 25 yearly to be paid to the minister of Fordyce; and L. 40 yearly to a school-master, to educate, at Fordyce, as many boys (of the name of Smith) as could be maintained, at the rate of L. 25 each, out of the interest of the final residue of the estate. As the handiest way of managing the affair of the *infirmary* or *hospital*, (for which L. 1000 was held to be a rather slender provision,) the magistrates formed the design of laying out a part of the town-house for a *broth* or *soup-kitchen* to the poor, in consideration of which they resolved on applying the sum in question to the general expense of that

* There is a collection of books in the academy, but mostly so antiquated or incomplete as to be of little use.

structure ;—and this under the idea, it may be supposed, that they thereby, in effect, established an *hospital* for the admission and relief of persons labouring under the disease of an *empty belly*. Patients of this class were accordingly, for a time, admitted, and dismissed relieved. These, however, were soon succeeded by others of a different class, whose malady consisted in an *inability to pay the penalties inflicted by excise courts* ; and, at present, the only patient in the hospital is the Sheriff-clerk, whose complaint was *want of room* in the apartments otherwise allotted to him. To speak more plainly, the broth-kitchen became a prison, the prison a writing-chamber or record office ; but the departure, in this instance, from the testator's intentions, was more of chance or necessity than of design ; and, as there is now an ample provision for an infirmary otherwise, it needs not be regretted.* Besides the bequest for the hospital, however, the magistrates realized the sum of L. 10,297, 16s. 6d. three per cent. consols ; and the yearly dividends (L. 308, 18s. 8d.) thence arising, are duly expended according to the directions of the will : nine boys, chosen by the magistrates, receiving maintenance and education for five years each, in the manner specified.

On the 2d July 1799, Mr James Wilson of the island of Grenada, directed, by will, “ the whole stock ” (of his property, after the death of certain liferenters nominated,) “ to be drawn from the funds, and remitted to the magistrates of the burgh of Banff, North Britain, to be by them laid out as a charitable fund, in the best manner possible, and to remain under the directions of the acting magistrates from year to year,” and without any more specific instructions whatever.

The last of the liferenters died only last year, and the magistrates have realized L. 3561, 16s. 1d. 3 per cents., and L. 2647 of cash,—which, however, is less than half the actual sum left ; the remaining, and greater part, being lost by the failure of the house in London to whom it was remitted. Every species of poverty and distress in the parish being already as well provided for, otherwise, as can be beneficially done, it has been resolved to apply Mr Wilson's bequest, jointly with some funds from other sources, to the purposes of education ; † and with this view, the

* In regard to this matter, the Commissioners on Municipal Corporations observe, that, “ while the proceeding is not an example to be followed, it can hardly be censured.”

† In the case of Cassy's fund, afterwards mentioned, counsel were of opinion that education fell clearly within the objects of the bequest.

magistrates propose to erect a building * sufficient to embrace at once accommodation for an infant school, for a free school on the Madras system, and for class-rooms for the academy teachers, (besides a library and museum;) it being intended to admit the more promising boys from the free schools to the benefit of a more complete education in the classes of the academy.

By a will dated 8th February 1819, Mr Alexander Cassy, a native of Banff, and then residing at Pentonville, near London, left the residue of his estate, (after payment of certain legacies,) in trust to the magistrates and town-council of Banff,—appointing “the interest accruing therefrom to be expended half-yearly, and every half-year, towards the support of poor, aged, and infirm persons, of both sexes, incapable of maintaining themselves by labour, born within the precincts of the said burgh, and helpless orphans, and other deserted children of both sexes, born as before, until they attain the age when they may be deemed capable of providing for themselves. And I hereby declare it to be my desire, that those who become objects of this charity, shall be selected at the discretion of the majority of the aforesaid town-council, always giving the preference to the most necessitous.” These are the whole directions contained in the will as to the mode of bestowing the charity; but the magistrates, previously to entering on the administration of the funds, procured, for their more specific direction, an opinion of counsel, by which they have since been guided in the selection of cases for relief.

Under the provisions of this will, the annual sum of L. 300, being the dividends upon L. 10,000, 3 per cent. consols, fell, in the year 1824, to the disposal of the magistrates. A farther sum of L. 7000, 3 per cents., together with the value of a house at Pentonville, will fall in on the demise of certain liferenters named in the will.

The average number of aged and infirm persons receiving relief from this fund since July 1824, is 59; smallest number at one time, 55; greatest, 66. The average number of families of children (of one to six in each family,) 28; smallest number, 24;

* A chaste and classic design, (furnished by Mr W. Robertson of Elgin, architect,) has already been adopted by the trustees. The eastern façade is designed to be 154 feet long, and to consist of a portico in the centre, in the Grecian Ionic style, with side buildings and two protruding wings at the extremes, adorned with pilasters and entablatures in the same taste. The situation of the building on the ascent on the south-west of the town will be such as to give it every advantage, particularly when seen, from the road that approaches from the south, across the river, and over the trees environing Duff House park.

greatest, 35. Average of both classes, 87 ; smallest, 82 ; greatest 96. The average payment at last distribution (to each old person or young family,) was at the rate of L. 2, 15s. per annum ; the highest being L. 4, 10s. ; lowest, L. 1. L. 10 per annum is paid to the teacher of Pirie's school for instructing boys, and L. 5 to the teacher of the female charity school for instructing girls on the bounty.

By a will dated 7th May 1825, Miss Elizabeth Wilson, an unmarried female residing in Banff, pursuing an intention that had been mutually formed between her and her deceased brother, Mr John Wilson, baker there, bequeathed, to certain official and private trustees, the whole heritable and moveable property of which she should die possessed, with directions to apply the yearly produce of the same, (with immaterial deductions,) in equal annuities, to six tradesmen and six maiden women of the age of fifty years or upwards, and who have resided in Banff twenty years. The will also directs that L. 2 yearly should be laid out in the purchase of books (selected by the minister) for the use of the annuitants ; each of whom is farther to receive, on appointment, a Bible and book of devotion. Annuitants are named by a majority of the trustees. The average amount paid to each hitherto has been L. 9 or L. 10 per annum.

Alexander Chalmers, Esq. of Cluny, who died last year, left a settlement, jointly executed by himself and spouse, by which he appointed the whole of his heritable and moveable property (subject to certain legacies and annuities, and to Mrs Chalmers's life-rent,) to be vested in trustees, for the " founding, erection, and endowment of an hospital and free dispensary of medicines," to be called " Chalmers's Hospital,"—" for the support, maintenance, cure, and relief of destitute sick paupers, lunatics, and other diseased and poor infirm persons of both sexes, born, domiciliated, and resident in any town or parish of the said county of Banff, the inhabitants whereof shall make collections (for the institution) at their respective parish churches," &c.—the site of Mr Chalmers's residence in the sea-town of Banff being at the same time assigned as that of the hospital to be erected. The trustees named for the management of this bequest are the Lord Lieutenant of the County ; Member for the County ; Sheriffs-depute and substitute ; Provost ; Ministers of Banff, Gamrie, and Marnoch ; President of Society of Solicitors, and Peter and John A. Cameron, Esqs.—three a quorum.

The whole value of heritable and moveable property which will eventually be available for this charity is supposed not to fall short of L. 40,000.

A Female Clothing Society has been for some years established, which expends about L. 13 annually, (raised by subscription among members and others,) in providing clothes and fuel to poor persons. There are besides one or two annual distributions of coals in the winter season, from bequests made by benevolent individuals.

Provident Institutions.—The friendly societies which have had their regulations sanctioned under the new act, are, Solomon's Lodge of Gardeners, instituted in April 1778; Adam's Lodge of Gardeners, and the Mason's Operative Lodge. These, with St Andrew's Mason Lodge, are all the friendly societies (unless the trades' incorporations, whose objects are similar, may be reckoned such,*) existing in the parish. The Graystone Friendly Society (established in 1792;) the Ploughman's (1801;) the Sailors' (1813;) and some more of later birth, have been dissolved within the last few years. Few of the members of them were inclined to take the trouble of conforming to the new act,—as few (it is suspected) averse to a present division of their funds. All these institutions, however, have gradually been suffering decay. In this, as in most other things, there is a fashion; and here the fashion has declined. Indeed, such societies are seldom entered so much with prudential objects in view, as for purposes of amusement and good fellowship. It is remarked, too, that these associations were never conducted upon sound principles,—the allowances being graduated, not according to a scientific calculation of the average proportion between contributions and claims, but in the ratio of the absolute number of contributors. The allowances granted at present by any of these societies are inconsiderable.

To the principle of friendly societies the objection has been made, that they bear, in some respects, too near an alliance to a game of chances; and that each person, trusting too much to the benefit he himself may enjoy at the expense of others, is thereby led to neglect sounder precautions against future necessity. From this objection, it is added, savings banks are free: here each man gets just his own savings, and hence, as alleged, the superiority of the savings banks over friendly societies. But though some, on

* At the present moment (June 1836,) the trades' incorporations are in the course of being broken up, and the funds divided.

these grounds, prefer the principle of savings banks, still friendly societies seem generally to be reckoned highly beneficial in their nature,—supposing their management such as to let their operation have fair play.

The Banff Savings Bank was established in 1815. For the last six years, the number of contributors, with the amount deposited by them, has been as follows, viz.

<i>Years.</i>	<i>No. of Contributors.</i>			<i>Amount deposited.</i>
1830,	.	295	.	L. 2477 12 4
1831,	.	288	.	2424 8 4
1832,	.	285	.	2347 9 1
1833,	.	274	.	2393 11 10
1834,	.	297	.	2629 15 3
1835,	.	304	.	2776 15 3

The amount of funds from this bank in the hands of the Commercial Bank of Scotland is about L. 2900. The investments are generally made by men and women servants from Banff and neighbouring parishes.

Pauperism.—The poor of the parish are provided for, partly from the funds of the kirk-session, partly by an annual subscription among the inhabitants.

Besides the ordinary church collections, the kirk-session draws annually in rents and interest the sum of L. 28, 9s. 4d.

A certain number of poor persons in the parish receive, directly from the kirk-session, a regular weekly or quarterly allowance, at the rate of from 5s. to L. 2, 12s. a-year each.

The kirk-session has a farther expenditure for extraordinary aids, and for allowances to persons residing out of the parish, but who have acquired a claim to relief by former residence.

The affairs of the remaining poor of the parish are managed by a committee chosen annually by the subscribers to the fund, and which is divided into sub-committees for the several districts.

Along with the amount of the subscriptions, and occasional windfalls, the committee have L. 100 annually placed at their disposal by the kirk-session.

Cases for relief are selected, and the rates to each individual fixed, by the committee, which meets twice a-year. The allowances are, for the most part, paid weekly, and range from 6d. to 1s. 6d. to each person,—a few quarterly from 2s. 6d. to 10s.

The following table presents a view of all the particulars now mentioned for the last five years :

Years.	Ordinary church collections.	Subscriptions, donations, &c.	No. of persons receiving ordinary allowances.				Average weekly allowance to each.	Amount of extraordinary aids.
			From kirk session.			Total.		
			Resident.	Non-resident.	from general poors fund.			
1831,	L.112	L.101	12	4	96	112	10d.	L. 9
1832,	111	148	11	4	94	109	9½d.	6
1833,	111	103	11	4	91	106	9¼d.	10
1834,*	160	113	12	5	95	112	9¼d.	10
1835,	170	116	18	5	98	121	9d.	20
Average of 5 years,	L.133	L.116	13	4	95	112	9½d.	L. 11

The system now described was first adopted in 1817, chiefly with a view to the suppression of common street begging, an end which it has effectually enough answered,—though by no means so as to supersede the necessity for private almsgiving, and occasional collections for special cases of distress; and, taken generally, as a plan of pauper management, its operation appears to have been, on the whole, satisfactory.

It is, however, a circumstance well worth remark, that an additional annual expenditure since the year 1824 of nearly L. 300 (from Cassie's bounty, as already described,) has had so far from a proportional effect in lessening the amount required to be raised otherwise.† Few or none, indeed, of the persons on the general poor's fund are those who are receiving, at the same time, an allowance from Cassie's bequest. But the latter class of persons, being only the next above the former, and that from which the ranks of the regular poor may be supposed to be filled,—the two funds may, in estimating the effect of an increased provision for the poor, be set down as one. It would, of course, be an error to say that Cassie's bounty has not been productive of benefit: it must, to its extent, have saved distress or privation that would have been otherwise felt: but an additional proof has been afforded by it, in the present instance—if, indeed, experience were needed to prove what may be pronounced before hand—that an increase of funds for the maintenance of the poor will not lessen the *number* of the poor.

* For the last two years there have generally been three services in the church each Sunday, and a resident heritor's contribution to the collections.

† The average sum expended by the Poors' Committee for eight years, 1817-24, was L. 327; number of poor, 156; average sum for five years, 1831-35, L. 216; number, 95; making only a reduction of L. 111 on the sum, 61 on the number. It is believed, too, that it is not so much a lessening of the demand as of the supply that occasions even this difference—several families who were liberal contributors having died away or removed.

Applications for assistance from charitable funds are stated to be increasing in frequency in the parish; and it seems to be the opinion of all who have the means of observing, that feelings of disinclination to resort to such assistance are fast wearing off. There is good reason for suspecting, besides, that the existence of so many charitable institutions in the parish has been the means of attracting poor persons to come from a distance to settle in it.

Prison.—The number of prisoners confined in Banff jail for three years has been as follows :

	1832.	1833.	1834.
Debtors, - -	22	17	9
Criminals, - -	15	16	45
Revenue offenders, -	5	4	2
Total each year,	42	37	56

Looking to the strength of the walls of the prison, the solidity of its window gratings, and the ponderous iron door which shuts in its main passage, one would scarcely suppose a prisoner could have much chance of escape; yet, in some instances, escapes have been made from it, and in others, attempts to escape have only been discovered when almost on the point of success.—Some years ago, a few Crown debtors were confined for enormous penalties, incurred for contravention of the excise laws; and on this occasion, so little dependence were the inhabitants disposed to place in the power of walls or bolts to retain the captives, that, having the fear of the Exchequer before their eyes (it being understood that the town would be liable for payment of the penalties if the prisoners escaped,) they turned out, every night, in companies of four or six by rotation, to guard the doors and windows of the prison. Still the prison may be said to be well secured. It is also entirely fire-proof. But it is decidedly deficient in accommodation. There are only two apartments for the reception of civil prisoners, each 19 feet square; and it is understood that a burgess of the town, if confined in one of these, has the power to exclude from it all others who may not possess that happy distinction. Unfortunately, he cannot exclude them from the prison altogether. Instances have occurred in which ten or twelve persons have been huddled together, day and night, in one of these apartments, or with only the additional accommodation of the narrow passage into which the apartments open. There are frequently six or eight persons in one of them. The situation of the prison is airy enough,

but there is no court-yard to which the prisoners have access. There are, besides the civil prisons, two cells for criminals. In these there are no fire-places; and, even in the depth of winter, the wretched inmate has nothing furnished him but a bedstead. Light and air are admitted through a narrow slit in the wall, which, till lately, was unglazed. So unfit, however, have these dungeons been conceived to be, for the reception of any human being, that criminals have, in fact, necessarily been allowed to encroach on the accommodation of the debtors. These prisons are on the second story. On the ground floor is a pretty large vault, with windows opening into a narrow court, in which female prisoners are generally lodged together, without respect to the cause of their detention. There is also, on the ground floor, a dungeon, (lately constructed) which, assuming that the office of a dungeon is to make human existence wretched, seems to want nothing that can contribute to such a purpose, except the being fairly under ground. It is entirely in the interior of the building, and cut off from all direct communication with external light or air,—the small grating in the door opening only into a half-dark passage. This is said to be intended only for the temporary reception of persons disturbing the public peace by brutal drunkenness or other outrageous behaviour. It does not appear, that until within these few months, any regular means were employed for preserving cleanliness, either as regards the apartments and furniture, or the persons and dress of the prisoners, (except that water was carried into them by the jailors.)

The jail is entirely under the government or superintendence of the magistrates. Criminals are allowed 3d. a-day, paid by the county, before conviction; by the burgh, after it. Debtors without other means of subsistence receive an alimant from the imprisoning creditor, the amount of which is fixed by the magistrates. It varies generally from 8d. to 2s. 6d. per day.

Fairs.—The town is allowed by charters to hold seven or eight fairs or markets yearly, but only four are held; and of these but one (Brandon fair, at Whitsunday,) is of any magnitude. This, as well as the Martinmas and Lammas, are feecing markets. There are no cattle-markets.

Inns and Alehouses.—There are 38 inns or shops licensed for the sale of ale and spirits,—all within the liberties of the burgh. The general opinion seems to be, that the number of such houses adds to the prevalence of tippling, and undoubtedly this vice pre-

vails in the town to a considerable extent. But while some suppose that habits of drinking have their origin in causes which would work alike, independently of the greater or smaller number of licensed houses, others, admitting the evil of licensing a house, but from necessity, in a district where there is yet no other, maintain that a *small* number of taverns or alehouses in a neighbourhood where there *must be some*, has a direct tendency to increase dissipation, from the greater number of visitors who must necessarily resort to one place, and the consequent more frequent and easy formation of drinking parties.

A strong belief seems to be generally entertained of the pernicious effects of spirit-shops, as distinct from inns or taverns, in so much as the former (more especially when furnishing, as some of them do, a private room for tippling,) afford opportunities and temptations to many persons who would be averse to be seen frequenting the tavern.

Fuel—Coals; but as there is a peat-moss at the inland extremity of the parish, peats are, especially in its vicinity, more or less used. The average price of coals (mostly from Sunderland) is about 1s. 0½d. per barrel of 2½ imperial bushels. Carriage in the town about 1d. per barrel more. Peats, in the town, cost from 2s. to 3s. per load, according to the size of the cart.

COMPARATIVE STATE.

The chief differences that have occurred in regard to the state and circumstances of the parish since the last Statistical Account was drawn up, have been sufficiently indicated under the different heads comprehended in the present report. The extension of cultivation, and the use of an improved mode of husbandry,—the establishment of the herring fishery,—the increase of the corn exports, and introduction of the system of exporting live cattle,—the formation of turnpike roads, and multiplication and improvement of the means of communication,—the discontinuance of smuggling,—the expensive, though not quite efficient, additions to the harbour,—the establishment of new congregations and places of worship,—the institution of libraries,—the valuable bequests and endowments made to the town,—the increased conveniences from gas lights, baths, and the like—may just be referred to as among the most striking alterations. In regard to moral and social changes, there is not much to remark. Like all other places in the kingdom, the town partook of the fictitious and temporary prosperity arising from the anticipations of the national revenue made during

the war ; and, like all other places, when the product of these anticipations was once expended, and the permanent burden they entailed began to be felt, it suffered from the transition. In the first period, there was a general start upwards of every rank in society, each occupying the place of the one next above it. The revulsion was necessarily in proportion. Numerous failures among the merchants and tradesmen took place after the peace ; and no little difficulty was sustained by others, whose circumstances were not so necessarily made apparent. Perhaps the increased facilities of bank accommodation which began to be afforded about that time, augmented the evil. But the worst is now past ; matters have returned to their natural level ; and nothing seems wanting, but the continuance of foreign and domestic tranquillity, to enable the community to realize as much prosperity as, under national and local circumstances hardly admitting of alteration, the human condition is usually known to allow.

July 1836.

PARISH OF DESKFORD.

PRESBYTERY OF FORDYCE, AND SYNOD OF ABERDEEN.

THE REV. GEORGE INNES, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—THE present name of this parish, there is reason to believe, is the only name which it has borne since its erection ; and is supposed to have reference to its situation and climate with regard to Cullen, with which it has, of all places, the most intercourse. Deskford lies to the south of Cullen, and being farther from the coast, the climate is naturally colder than that of Cullen ; hence, the name Deskford has been derived from *Chess fure*, which signifies “ a cold place to the southward.”*

Extent and Boundaries.—The length of this parish is rather more than 5 miles, and its breadth somewhat above 3. It is bounded, on the south, by Grange ; on the west, by Rathven ; on the

* Fordyce, from which Deskford was probably disjoined, is said to have the same etymology. The climate of the greater part of both is similar, and the name, (inverting the syllables.) is also similar.

north, by Cullen, or that part of Rathven annexed *quoad sacra* to Cullen; and on the east, by Fordyce.

Topographical Appearances.—The form of the parish is nearly that of a parallelogram. It is intersected by a small stream called the burn of Deskford, which rises in the adjoining parish of Grange, and is increased in its course through Deskford by many streamlets from the rising grounds on each side of it, running down small glens or ravines, beautifully fringed with natural wood on each side of them, as is the burn or main stream into which they run. So that Deskford forms one of the most beautiful little straths in the whole country.

The impetuosity of the little streams in thaws or floods, rolling and bounding down their steep and rocky channels, and of the burn, which is then swelled into a large size, sweeping majestically along, is grand and striking. There is, as may be supposed, a variety of small waterfalls; and there is one called the Linn, which is singularly beautiful. The water is hemmed within a very narrow channel, in the deep cleft of a great rock, the entrance of which it has beautifully scooped and polished; and it throws itself at several successive bounds to a depth of nearly thirty feet. The scenery around is exceedingly romantic and beautiful.

The high ground on the east side of the strath, at its south or upper end, is partly planted with larch and common fir. It is called the Green-hill. That on the west or opposite side is of a mossy nature, and is generally covered with heath, except small patches here and there, which have been cultivated, the number and extent of which are gradually increasing.* At the north or lower end of the strath, the ground is cultivated on the east side to the very top of the hill; and on the west or opposite side it is covered with fir and other thriving wood. The low ground, throughout the whole length of the strath, is almost wholly cultivated, except where the precipitous banks of the burns or ravines prevent it. But these being covered with natural wood, add much to the variety and beauty of the scenery.

Climate.—The climate is rather cold and wet. But, if we may judge from the general health and longevity of the inhabitants, it cannot be considered as peculiarly unwholesome. And even its

* These patches are cultivated by small tenants, to whom the proprietor lets the ground in lots of from eight to twelve or twenty acres, for seven years, rent free; and after that, for 1s. or 1s. 4d. per acre for a period of nineteen years,—after which the land is let for such moderate rent as it is judged worth.

humidity must be undergoing a favourable change, from the draining and cultivation which are carried on.

Geology and Mineralogy.—The general soil of the parish, in the lower parts of it, is black loam upon a hard clay bottom. In the higher grounds, the soil is mossy, upon a hard impervious bottom of clay and gravel mixed. This renders draining, in almost all parts of the parish, of the greatest necessity and importance, and it has of late been much resorted to, and with much advantage.

There is in the parish an excellent quarry of primitive limestone, The lime is of very superior fineness and strength. Large quantities of it are prepared by the tenantry, partly for sale, and partly for their own use in agriculture and in building.

There is, likewise, an extensive moss in the parish, from which the inhabitants are supplied with peat and turf, and from which they supply Cullen and some of the adjoining villages upon the coast.

The parish, in so far as can be ascertained from the channels and banks of the burns and ravines, and other openings which have made, seems to rest chiefly upon strata of mica-slate, nearly vertical. Fragments of quartz are frequently found imbedded in the slate, but never to any considerable size. There is much reason to think that all this part of the country has, at some remote period, been under water, as almost all the higher grounds, upon paring off a surface coat of vegetable mould, which is of no great depth, except where the moss has much accumulated, are found to consist of gravel, or clay and gravel mixed.

Botany.—There is not, as far as the writer knows, any rare species of plants found in the parish. The natural wood, which grows along the sides of the burn and smaller streams, is chiefly alder, hazel, gean, and birch. The planted wood is common fir, a small proportion of larch, and a still smaller of ash, beech, and oak, the whole of which thrive sufficiently well in most of the places where they have been tried. There are, in an orchard adjoining to the church, some very fine large ashes measuring from eight to twelve feet in circumference. One of them is of the latter dimensions, in girth, at the height of ten feet from the ground. But of the two trees called St John's, and young St John's, commemorated in the former Statistical Account, the grandeur is now entirely gone. The latter was, by an act of presumption and bad taste, and without authority from the Noble proprietor or his factor, cut down upwards of twenty years ago; and of the former, nothing now remains but a

very small part of the trunk, hollowed, scathed and withered, sending forth only one small solitary green branch, produced apparently since the former wide-spreading boughs gave way, and likely soon also to wither and disappear as they have done. The very fine holly, also commemorated in that Account, which consisted of a trunk about eight feet in circumference, separating into two beautiful straight stems at about eight feet from the ground, has now only one of these stems standing; and that stem is also in a very fragile state, from pervading and consuming rot, which first disparted the stems to the very ground, then rendered one of them incapable of standing, and will soon do the same to the other. Thus the principal ornaments of this delightful spot, once so abundant in excellent fruit as well as in stately trees, are now either entirely gone, or are fast hastening to decay. There are, however, besides the ashes already mentioned, in a growing state, which may in time perhaps be not inferior to their sires,—a holly bush, one of the stems of which is $5\frac{1}{2}$ feet in circumference; and a hawthorn tree, $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet in circumference. There is likewise, in another part of the parish somewhat lower down, also by the burn side, a hawthorn tree of much larger dimensions. It is $8\frac{1}{2}$ feet round at the height of $6\frac{1}{2}$ feet from the ground, and its wide-spreading umbrageous top, when richly covered with flourish or with berries, is singularly striking and beautiful.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

This parish has long been the property of the Earls of Findlater and Seafield. The date of its erection into a parish, the writer has no means of ascertaining.

Parochial Registers.—There are parochial registers as far back as 1669: and the register of births and marriages is continuous from that time to the present. There is no record of the proceedings of the kirk-session earlier than 1684. The record continues to 1687. There is then a blank till 1694, from which time the record seems to have been kept with tolerable accuracy till 1731, when there is another blank till 1734. This is attributed to the carelessness of the then session-clerk, who had left only “a few confused scraps, which nobody could connect.”

Antiquities.—There was found, about twenty years ago, on the confines of a farm called Liechestown, the resemblance of a swine’s head in brass, of the ordinary size, with a wooden tongue moveable by springs. It had also eyes, and the resemblance in every respect was wonderfully exact. It was found at a depth of about six feet, in a

mossy and knolly piece of ground upon a bed of clay. The ground abounded with hazel-nuts, which looked entire, but, upon being opened, were found empty. This antique curiosity is now in possession of the Banff Institution, to which it was presented by the Honourable Colonel Grant, to whom it was given by the tenant who found it on his farm. The place where it was found is close by the confines of another farm, called Inalterie, which is supposed to mean the place of the altar, and where there are the remains of a very old strong massive building, the nature of which cannot now be ascertained, and respecting which there is no tradition. In one part of this building, there is a deep circular hole, about the diameter of an ordinary draw-well, inclosed by a wall of masonry, rising to a considerable height in the building. This hole is now filled up with rubbish to a level with the surface of the ground. What had been the original purpose of it cannot now be ascertained. Perhaps it had been intended as a "dry pit" for the solitary confinement of offending individuals. Close to it, there is a vault, on the top of which the tenant has now his kail-yard. Some years ago, an attempt was made to explore this vault. A stair was found leading down to it. A heavy rain, however, coming on at the time, and filling the place with water, the work was interrupted, and has never been resumed. Whether this ruin be that of a baronial or ecclesiastical edifice, it is not perhaps now possible to determine; though the name Inalterie, and the artificial head already mentioned, which was probably contrived for some purpose of imposture, or "lying wonder," would rather incline us to suppose it to be the ruin of some ecclesiastical building, erected in those remote ages, when ignorance, superstition, imposture, and tyranny were so prevalent.

In the immediate vicinity of this ruin, there was, till lately, a conical artificial eminence, called the Law Hillock, and supposed to have been at one time the seat from which justice was distributed. It is now demolished, the tenant having found the stones, of which it chiefly consisted, very convenient for the building of his offices; a purpose to which the stones of the adjoining ruin refused to be subservient, obstinately resisting every effort made to separate them.

There is also on the other side of the burn of Deskford, within view of the former, and about half a mile from it, another hillock, rising to the height of 20 feet, with regularly sloping sides, and flat upon the top,—which is of an elliptical shape, about 30 feet by

18 feet. It is surrounded at the base by a ditch, one part of which forms the bed of a small stream which runs past it, and is called the Ha' burn, as the hillock is called the Ha' hillock, and is said also to have been a hall of law or justice. In a fine day, it would still be a most convenient and delightful place for such a purpose—incomparably preferable to a close and crowded court-house. There is a gateway over the ditch, by which suitors could approach. There is sufficient room in the area on the top, for the court, and a *moderate* share of witnesses on both sides, while the assembled multitudes below would be completely under the eye of the authorities above.

There is likewise close to the church, the ruin of an old tower or castle, called the Tower of Deskford, which had been the family residence of the chief proprietor in the parish. The south wall of this old building and the north wall of the church are in immediate contact, and there is reason to think, that there had been a door of communication between the two, and that the church had been the family chapel, at the same time that it afforded accommodation for the people of the surrounding district, when assembled together for religious worship. This tower was, till lately, a very prominent and interesting feature in the scenery ; but, owing to the masonry having got into so loose and incohesive a state, as to occasion danger of its being blown down, and overwhelming the church, which it greatly overtopped, it was some years ago pulled down.*—Of the Castle of Skeith, mentioned in the former Statistical Account as a striking ruin, there is now no vestige.—The church is a very ancient building, and was evidently erected before the Reformation. It contains accommodations not now necessary in parochial churches—as recesses in the walls behind the doors for the vessels with holy water. It is said to have been dedicated to St John. Beside it, is St John's well, the spring or stream supplying which issues almost as it were from beneath the church. Close to St John's well is the once stately tree, dedicated to the same saint, which has been already mentioned, and of which so small a fragment is all that now remains.

Modern Buildings.—There is no modern or other building of any note in the parish. There are two meal mills, one of them

* The apprehension of this injury to the church was excited by two immense masses of the same building in another part having fallen down, one above the other. Had these two masses fallen together in one continuous sweep, they would have inevitably crushed a small house quite near with its poor inhabitants. This hint was not to be neglected, and, upon examination of the part adjoining to the church, it was found little more secure.

with a kiln and barley mill attached to it, and there are eight thrashing-mills, all driven by water. There was, till lately, the machinery of a bleachfield worked also by the same power.

III.—POPULATION.

The ancient state of the population previous to the return made to Dr Webster, when its amount was 940, there are no means of ascertaining. Between the date of that return and of the former Statistical Account, a period of about forty years, there appears to have been a decrease of 188, and between that and the census of 1811 there appears to have been a further decrease of 118, owing, in both cases, most probably, to the diminution of the number of crofters and subtenants. Since the census of 1811, there has been a gradual increase, occasioned, no doubt, in some degree, by the encouragement given to settlers in the uncultivated parts of the parish, near the moss.

In 1811 the population was	634
1821,	693
1831,	828

The yearly average of marriages for the last seven years is $4\frac{1}{2}$, and of births 23. There is no register of burials kept.

The average number of persons under 15 years of age is	330
betwixt 15 and 30	143
30 and 50	187
50 and 70	117
upwards of 70	51

The number of families in the parish,	194
chiefly employed in agriculture,	172
in trade, manufactures, or handicraft,	17

There is no family of rank or of independent fortune, and there is no landed proprietor, residing in the parish. The number of unmarried men, bachelors and widowers upwards of 50 years of age, is 8; and of unmarried women upwards of 45, 26. The average number of children in each family is $4\frac{1}{2}$. There are 2 persons in the parish occasionally insane; 3 rather in a fatuous state, and till within these few months there was one very aged female blind, who died in the ninety-first year of her age.

Character, &c. of the People.—The people are in general healthy. There are many instances of longevity.* Their habits are sober and industrious, with few exceptions. They live very plainly, and,

* There are various aged females on the verge of ninety,—and one ninety-six, who was till within these two years in the habit of attending church, though she had more than a mile of very rough ground (not road,) to walk to it, with ditches in her way, and the burn to cross either on stepping-stones or on a plank. A man died last winter aged ninety-seven. The elder, commemorated in the former Statistical Account as the father of three females born at a birth, died within these few years in the ninety-third year of his age, and was able, even at that very advanced period of life, occasionally to attend church, though at the distance of nearly two miles. It may be inte-

for the most part, on vegetable food, the produce of their own corn and potatoe fields and kailyards. If, to this very sober fare they were permitted to add the exhilarating beverage of a little small beer, they would be very thankful ; but this, they have been for many years prevented from enjoying by the very heavy duty upon malt, amounting, when barley is at its lowest price, and of course, when they can least bear it, to upwards of 100 per cent.,* and by the vexatious restrictions which have till lately attended this enormous duty. The illicit distillation of whisky, till the excise laws upon that head were rendered more moderate and judicious, was very prevalent among them, and was of course attended with its usual demoralizing effects. There is now perhaps no such thing in the parish ; though certainly the government's repeatedly tampering with these laws in the way they have done is calculated to reproduce it. It is, however, apprehended, that habits which, under so baneful a system were contracted, have not in every instance been got the better of.

During the last three years there have been 5 illegitimate births in the parish.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.—

The number of imperial acres in the parish, which are either cultivated or occasionally in tillage is	2800
The number which have never been cultivated, and which remain constantly waste or in pasture,	5100
The number of acres which might, with a profitable application of capital, be added to the cultivated land of the parish, whether that land were to be kept in occasional tillage or in permanent pasture,	250
There is no land in the parish in a state of undivided common.	
Number of acres under wood, natural or planted,	600

Common fir, with a small proportion of larch, is the wood generally planted, and alder, birch, hazel, and gean tree is that which is indigenous, and grows by the sides of the burn and of the small streams which run into it. Of late, fully as much alder has been cut down for herring-barrel staves, as was compatible with keeping up the natural beauty of the place ; while in some of the fir plantations, a little more thinning would be favourable to their health and vigour.

Rent of Land.—The average rent of arable land in the parish

resting to mention, that his *triu* daughters, if we may use a word which is seldom needed, are all alive and in good health. It may also be interesting to mention other two singular facts relating to the same family,—for four successive generations they have held an office in the eldership ; and the fifth generation of the family is now upon the same farm.

* In 1833, barley was as low as 19s. per quarter, and the duty upon a quarter of malt was and is L. 1, 0s. 8d.

is 17s. 6d. per imperial acre. The rate of agricultural labour in summer is from 1s. 3d. to 1s. with victuals, and in winter from 1s. to 10d. The wages of masons are 1s. 6d., of wrights, 1s. 6d., and of tailors 1s.,—all with victuals.

Live-Stock.—The breeds of cattle and of sheep are of a mixed kind. Great improvements have of late been made in the way of draining and cultivation. Lime and bone manure are both used with excellent effect, when the soil is rendered dry. Considerable quantities of fish manure are likewise used even by some of the tenants in the upper parts of the parish. The leases are in general for nineteen years. The farm-buildings are mostly of an inferior description. The proprietor allows for houses built of stone and lime, slated, and upon a plan approved of, to the extent of two years rent; but as this is either not paid till the termination of the lease, or, if given at the commencement, high interest is charged,—the encouragement is not found to be very great. The style of the buildings has, however, of late been somewhat improved. Slating is more used; and there are now few or no black or feal houses. Even the very poorest contrive to get them built of stone and mortar of some kind or other.

Quarries.—The excellent limestone quarry, which is in the upper end of the parish, has been already mentioned, and is of great advantage to Deskford and part of the adjoining district. There are no other quarries of any value or extent, and good stones for building are rather scarce.

Produce.—The average gross amount of raw produce raised in the parish, as nearly as can be ascertained, is,

Of grain of all kinds, . . .	L. 3233	15	0
potatoes,	484	14	0
turnips,	809	5	0
hay and pasture,	1501	10	0
flax,	33	4	0

Total yearly value of raw produce, L. 6062 8 0

Manufactures.—There was, as already mentioned, till lately, a bleachfield in the parish. It was established as early as 1752, under the patronage of the then Lord Deskford, afterwards Earl of Findlater and Seafield,* a nobleman whose enlightened zeal for

* One of the modes which his Lordship adopted, for the accomplishment of his patriotic and enlightened objects, was to bring from the south, where the subjects were then better understood, persons well acquainted with agriculture and manufactures, to settle on his estate, and to exemplify and conduct the improvements which he meditated; and likewise by inducing the sons of the most respectable of his tenants to go themselves, and study those subjects where they were then most thoroughly understood.

the agricultural and manufacturing improvement of this part of the country is still held in grateful respect and admiration. This bleachfield continued a profitable concern for many years to the manufacturer who held it, as well as furnished the means of support to a considerable number of people in the neighbourhood employed at it. From the falling off, however, of the linen trade in this quarter, it has turned out latterly quite a losing concern, and has been given up; the machinery remaining a dead stock on the owner's hand, and the bleachfield being converted into corn-land. But the loss to him and to the people employed in his work, is not the sole disadvantage which has resulted from the change as to the linen trade. At one time, there were a good many thousand pounds annually brought by it into this parish and neighbourhood. There was not a house in Deskford, nor in any part of the adjoining country, without one or more spinning-wheels in it. There was not a female among the labouring classes who did not learn to spin; and even many of those who did not depend for support upon the industry of their hands, thought it not beneath them to learn the use of this simple small machine. When females became unfit for the more laborious occupation of household or farm-servants, this was their resource, and they could earn at it from 4d. to 6d. per day, which was quite adequate for their support. But at the rate at which they are now paid, their earnings, even with the same industry and exertion, scarcely amount to one-third of that; and many of the aged and feeble hardly in the live long day make out the sum of one single halfpenny. Yet still even that is an object to them, for it is 3d. in the week, and the occupation is an object to those who can find nothing else to do. Even the aged lady of ninety-seven, who has been mentioned, is not comfortable unless she can have her wheel before her, and be "drawing out a thread." Accordingly, when any fresh supply of flax comes to the parish, which is but seldom and scantily procured, and more out of charity than any other motive, there is the greatest possible scramble among the old women to get a share of it. They will travel miles and even to other parishes to obtain it; and if they come home without it, the disappointment is very great. Political economists are of opinion, that there is no great hardship in changing employment from one species of industry to another. But, whatever public or ultimate advantage may occasionally result from such changes, there is no one who considers the power of habit on human capabilities and character, who will question that a vast deal

of individual misery and distress is very often the result of such changes. And in nothing does this lamentable consequence more strikingly force itself upon our view, than in the effect which the recent improvements in machinery for spinning have had upon the comforts of the female peasantry of Scotland. He will certainly entitle himself to their distinguished gratitude, and that of every friend of humanity, who will contrive or lead to the introduction of some means of employing their industry, as generally applicable and useful, as was at one time the spinning-wheel. The young women are of course not learning the use of it; and without some employment suited to them in their declining years they must become a public burden.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Means of Communication, &c.—There is no market-town in the parish. The nearest market-town is Cullen, where also is the nearest post-office. The distance of Cullen from the centre of Deskford is about four miles. But what must appear rather extraordinary is, that in Deskford, till lately, there has not been one foot of turnpike road. The inconvenience of this to the parish and to the public has been long most deeply felt, as through Deskford is the great thoroughfare from Keith to Cullen. What aggravated the evil to the parish was, that this thoroughfare required so much to keep it in repair, that little or none of the commutation money levied in the parish could be applied for making or improving the necessary cross roads. But whatever difficulties stood in the way of this most important accommodation have been now removed, and there is at last a very excellent turnpike along the whole line from Keith to Cullen, which will be of immense advantage to both these places, and the whole of the interjacent country; and the more so, that there being now a pretty good harbour at Cullen, it is likely to become the sea-port of Keith and the adjoining country. Another advantage resulting from this improvement is, that it will admit of the commutation money raised in the parish being applied to the making and improving of the other necessary roads.

Ecclesiastical State.—The situation of the parish church is exceedingly convenient, being in the very centre of the parish, and not three miles from any one extremity of it. It appears to have been built, as already mentioned, before the Reformation; the exact time is uncertain. It is in pretty good repair, but it is not ceiled; and is rather small, in its present accommodations, for the parish.

This no doubt might, in some degree, be remedied, by the erecting of a new gallery between the two already erected at the ends. But other alterations would be requisite. There is sufficient accommodation for 357 people, but it is desirable that upwards of 400 should be accommodated. These inconveniences, it is hoped, will ere long be remedied. All the sittings are free, with the exception of those in one of the galleries, which was erected by the heritor, and seated by the kirk-session. The rents, however, in this gallery are not very burdensome, being in no case more than 6d. per annum for each sitter, and some of the back seats only 3d.

The manse was built about fifty years ago, and received a thorough repair, and partial enlargement about six years ago. It is an exceedingly commodious and good house. The extent of the glebe is about 8 imperial acres, and may be worth about as many pounds annually. The stipend amounts to 14 chalders, half meal and half barley, with L. 1, 15s. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., arising from a mortification made in 1675, by Mr Robert Sharpe, Sheriff-clerk of Banffshire,* together with L. 8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements.

There is no dissenting or other chapel in the parish. The whole of the people, with the exception of about six individuals, belong to the Established Church, and are in general pretty regular in attending public worship in the parish church, the only one which they either desire or need. The average number of communicants is about 330.

There has been lately an association formed in the parish in connexion with a presbyterial association, for promoting the spread of the Gospel in connexion with the Church of Scotland. The objects are partly parochial, and partly general. The general objects are,—the promoting of church extension, the circulation of the Bible, the Assembly's Schools, the India Mission, and Colonial Churches. The parochial objects are,—keeping up and extending the Sabbath school library, procuring Bibles for poor people in the parish, either gratis or at a reduced price, as circumstances may require, and aiding poor people in the education of their children, by paying such proportion of the school fees as may be deemed requisite. It is intended that one-half of the funds shall be applicable to parochial, the other to general purposes,—the latter, though received and remitted by the presbytery, to be distributed as the contributors shall

* This Mr Robert Sharpe, there is reason to think, was brother of the but too famous Archbishop Sharpe. He married the heiress of Ordeans, a small farm in the neighbourhood of the manse of Deskford. Hence, probably, his liberality to the minister.

direct. The contributions are to be made quarterly. For the current quarter, which is the first, they have been upwards of L. 3, and it is hoped that, with an improving appreciation of the objects, they will increase. The people were formerly in the habit of occasionally collecting in church for most of the above objects, but not so frequently or regularly as their importance merited. They have also had regular annual collections for the Aberdeen Infirmary, and for a pauper lunatic fund, under the management of the presbytery, for the benefit of such pauper lunatics—belonging to congregations which contribute, whether dissenting or other—as require to be sent to an asylum, but whose friends have neither the means of sending them thither, nor of keeping them at home. The average annual collections for each of the latter two objects is about L. 2, and these will require to be continued. But the contributions of the association for religious purposes, as above explained, will admit of all the other collections made in church being wholly applied for the maintenance of the poor in the parish. The average annual amount of collections for this purpose is about L. 20. There is also the sum of L. 10, 12s. 2d., interest of money left at various times, and by various individuals, for the poor. The whole annual amount of contributions for religious and charitable objects has been, on an average of seven years, about L. 28.

Education.—There are only two schools in the parish which have any endowment—the one, the parochial,—the other, a dame school, taught by two respectable females, sisters, who enjoy, through the kindness of the proprietor, the accommodations of a house and garden, and 3 bolls 1 firloft of meal annually. In this latter school, little boys as well as girls are taught to read, and the latter also to knit and sew. The average number attending is about 28. The fees are, for reading alone, 2s. per quarter, for reading, sewing, and knitting, 2s. 6d. The parochial schoolmaster's salary is L. 32. The accommodations are very liberal and excellent. The branches taught are, reading, writing, English grammar, arithmetic, and Latin when required. The average number of scholars attending is 40. The expense of education is from 10s. to L. 1 per annum, the latter sum only when Latin along with the other branches is taught. The fees received by the teacher may amount to L. 15 or L. 16 per annum. He has also an allowance from the Dick Bequest, which has been hitherto rather more than L. 25 per annum. There are besides, several Sabbath schools taught in the parish, the number attending

which may vary from 50 to 90 or 100. In the cold and short days, it does not even amount to the smaller number. These schools are uniformly taught gratis, and it is only religious instruction which is communicated. There are none in the parish between the age of six and fifteen who cannot read, or are not learning to do so. There, are, however, about 226 above the age of six unable to write, and 126 of these are below the age of twenty. The people are in general alive to the benefits of education, and there is no part of the parish so distant from the above schools, as to prevent attendance.* Since the institution of Sabbath schools, that hallowed day, as was to be expected, has been more reverently observed and very considerable improvement has been made by the youth in religious knowledge, and it is hoped also in religious principle and practice.

Library.—There is no other public library than the Sabbath school one; but it is of great use to parents, and the other friends and connexions of the young who attend school. The Scottish Christian Herald, which has lately been begun to be published, enjoys also a pretty large circulation in the parish, and is likely, by the blessing of God, to be of much use.

Charitable and other Institutions.—There is no hospital in the parish. But the people, as already stated, in consequence of their annual collection for the Aberdeen Infirmary, are entitled to admission there, when any case occurs which requires it—which is indeed very seldom, as the practitioners in the country are in general well educated and expert. There is likewise, as has been stated, an annual collection for a pauper lunatic fund, the object of which is, to provide the means of admission to the poor who labour under that most dreadful malady, into the lunatic asylum at Aberdeen, or to procure for them such other aid as their lamentable case requires.

There is no savings bank in the parish. But there is one in the adjoining parish of Cullen, the accommodation of which is open to the people of Deskford, and to all the surrounding neighbourhood.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The average number of persons receiving parochial aid is 37, and the average sum allotted to each annually is under 16s., some receiving considerably more than

* It may be observed, that, besides the above schools, there are in the remoter parts of the parish, little schools taught by aged women, partly out of love to the occupation, and partly to eke out a slender maintenance, where small children in the immediate neighbourhood, to the number of from 6 to 10 attend, and learn to read the Shorter Catechism, the Proverbs, and New Testament.

that sum, and others less, according to circumstances. The regular distributions are made half yearly, but intermediate disbursements are occasionally made, as cases of necessity occur. The annual amount of church collections for the poor of the parish, as already stated, is about L. 20. There is likewise, as already stated, interest of money for their behoof, amounting to L. 10, 12s. 2d. In cases of extreme emergency, contributions are occasionally made, particularly in winter and about Christmas, by humane individuals going about from house to house, and collecting, in meal or money, whatever each person is disposed to give. There is but one travelling beggar now belonging to the parish, and she a very lame person, who can visit only her friends in her immediate neighbourhood. There are, however, too many beggars from other parts, whom it is very desirable to discourage; so that they may remain where they are best known, and are least likely to thrive by imposture or idleness. The only way of effecting this is, by withholding alms from those from other quarters; but this plan it is not easy to persuade the people with sufficient energy to adopt. There is rather an unwillingness to receive parochial aid, except in cases of necessity, but these are, alas! too numerous. There are six bolls of meal annually given from Cullen House, to be distributed by the kirk-session among the most necessitous. There are likewise several poor and aged individuals, who receive from the same quarter a regular allowance, some of them at the rate of half a peck of meal per week, and some more, as the Noble proprietor, upon ascertaining the cases, is pleased to direct.

Alehouses.—There are no prisons nor fairs in the parish; and it is very desirable that it could be added there is no alehouse; but, though the number of alehouses be reduced, there is still one, which is quite unnecessary, and affords facilities and temptations to intemperance. It is much to be regretted that the magistrates or justices are not more alive to the baneful effects of licensing these where there is no occasion for them, and that certificates from ministers and kirk-sessions are not more invariably required before granting such licenses.

Fuel.—The fuel chiefly used is peat and turf. The expense of this is not great, as it is prepared and taken home by the tenants, when their agricultural operations are slackest, between their turnip husbandry and harvest. They even burn their limestone with peat, and a mixture of coal, which they obtain at Cullen, at 1s. 1d. or 1s. 2d. per imperial barrel.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The improvements which have taken place in the agriculture of the parish, from draining, and the application of lime, fish, and bone manure, have been already mentioned. The great advantages likely to result from the new turnpike road have been also stated. There has likewise, within these two years, been a large extent of hilly and moorish ground lying towards Fordyce enclosed for planting. It is called the Cotton Hill, and contains about 250 imperial acres, of which 190 are already planted. When the whole shall be completed, which is likely to take place in another year, it will extend the plantations in the parish to 850 acres. The drains which have been made for drying this piece of ground extend to upwards of 19 miles, and the dikes and ditches enclosing it to above 6 miles.

But the principal improvement, it is believed, is of a moral nature. Notwithstanding the still too great facilities for inebriety, it is much less common than when those facilities were more numerous. The Sabbath is more reverently and profitably spent; and the introduction of Sabbath schools and Sabbath school books has led to passing the other evenings of the week in a more improving manner, than they were wont to be spent some twenty years ago, and even much later. Then, in winter, when the ordinary labours were over, and the out-door pastimes could not be enjoyed, cards were the common resource both for masters and servants, whether in the parlour or in the kitchen. Now, such a thing is scarcely ever seen or thought of. But the present more profitable way of employing their leisure hours, and the superior moral and religious training now enjoyed, generally throughout the country, are likely to be exhibited more fully in their effects, when the rising generation shall be grown up, and shall have entered into the important relation of parents and heads of families.

August 1836.

PARISH OF ORDIQUHILL.

PRESBYTERY OF FORDYCE, SYNOD OF ABERDEEN.

THE REV. LUDOVIC W. GRANT, MINISTER.*

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name, Boundaries, &c.—THIS parish derives its name from Gaelic words, signifying the *hollow beside the height*. It is situate between 6 and 7 miles from the sea. It is of an oblong form, and is $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles in length, by $2\frac{1}{2}$ in breadth, undulated with rising ground. It is bounded on the north and west by the parish of Fordyce; by Grange on the south-west; by Marnoch on the south and east; and by Boindie on the north and east. It is terminated on the south-west by the Knock Hill, nearly 1640 feet in height.

Topographical Appearances.—The appearance of the parish is bleak from the want of wood,—but in a few years will be much improved by the thriving plantations which have been lately made.

Geology.—As has been stated, the parish is in general flat, particularly towards the northern part, and affords but few geological features worthy of notice,—the strata being in general deeply covered with beds of coarse clay, grit and iron shingle, so that the rocks are but sparingly laid bare, even by the burns and streams passing along the hollows; and no quarries have ever been wrought within the parish, to open up the strata to public view.—We may state, however, that the greater part, if not the whole, of the parish appears to rest on a thick bed of coarse mica-slate passing into gneiss, which again rests on granite,—the latter, in a disintegrated state cropping out on the south-eastern point of the parish, near the place called the Brown Hill Park.

The direction of the strata within the parish is generally from the north-east to the south-west, and the dip is north-east and south-west, standing at various angles of elevation. At some points, it appears almost horizontal, and at others standing at almost right angles to the horizon. The eastern side of the parish is covered by a thick bed of moss, resting on a bed of coarse clay, intermix-

* Drawn up by the former incumbent, the Rev. John Innes.

ed with scales of mica-slate, water-worn boulders, and fragments of various other disintegrated rocks, nowhere to be found *in situ* in that neighbourhood,—among which there was laid bare a few years ago, by some workmen belonging to Colonel Gordon of Park, in casting a ditch through a part of the moss, partially laid bare by casting peat, turf, &c. a large block of sandstone, reckoned of several tons weight, and which must have been transported thither a considerable distance. That boulder, although partially imbedded in the clay, was surrounded towards its surface entirely by moss; before the removal of which it must at one time have been deeply imbedded; and it may be remarked that there is no sandstone *in situ* nearer that spot than Quarrywood in Elginshire, a distance of more than thirty miles. A few miles to the westward, however, in the neighbouring parish of Deskford, rolled blocks of sandstone, of the same colour and texture, were at a former period rather numerous on the surface, so much so, that the architect, when erecting the manse a few years ago, found abundance of them for supplying him with materials for erecting the chimney-tops, for window rybats, soles, lintels, &c.

Rolled blocks of whin and trap rocks are common throughout the parish, with occasional blocks of granite, containing beautiful crystals of schorl, also boulders of gneiss intermixed with mica-slate, the prevailing rock of that district. Rude garnets and tourmaline are also common, imbedded within the whin blocks and mica-slate, some of them very large.

On the western side of the parish, the direction of the strata can be more distinctly traced, as they do not dip so far under the surface. In particular, the serpentine rock at Portsoy, so often noticed by geologists, can be distinctly traced from that place in a south-westerly direction, across the eastern base of the Knockhill, where and along the whole line blocks or outlayers of that mineral can readily be picked up, and of which I have seen various specimens beautifully polished, and specimens of asbestos and rock-cork, both common in that mineral. Near the same spot, a few years ago, a large block of plumbago was discovered, along with several smaller pieces, on the outside regularly crystallized and very pure,—although soft specimens of plumbago have, also, been discovered on the same line, in the neighbouring parish of Grange.

The top of the Knockhill, like many other of the adjacent mountains, is covered with a bed of moss, which appears distinctly stratified, and which in many places appears to be from 15 to 20 feet

deep, and which at different points descends along the declivity of the mountain, connecting itself with the mosses surrounding its base.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

There is a charter granted by Alexander II. in 1242, describing the boundaries of the estate of Park, in the possession of Lieutenant-Colonel Gordon, who is sole proprietor of the parish. A plan of the whole parish was made in 1782 for the use of the proprietor.

Parochial Registers.—The parochial registers commence in 1704; and have been kept regularly from that date.

Eminent Men.—The only person of eminence as a literary character which this parish has produced, is Mr Walter Goodall, author of a Defence of Queen Mary.

Buildings.—A neat commodious church was built in 1805, capable of holding between 400 and 500 persons; the manse in 1796; and considerable additions were made in 1829 to the mansion-house of Park, which is a large handsome-looking building.

III.—POPULATION.

The population in 1805 was	510
1811	521
1821	506
1831	651

The cause of the increase has been the improvement of waste lands. There is but one village,—where there is a population at present of 60; and in the country part there is a population of 599. The average number of births for the last seven years is 15; of marriages, 6. The number of persons under fifteen is 273; betwixt fifteen and thirty, 131; betwixt thirty and fifty, 148; betwixt fifty and seventy, 77; upwards of seventy, 22. The family of the proprietor resides in the parish. The unmarried women upwards of fifty are 3; and there are 1 widower and 4 unmarried women upwards of forty-five.

The number of families in the parish,	-	-	-	-	140
chiefly employed in agriculture,	-	-	-	-	86
in trade, manufactures, and handicraft,					28

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.—There are 2500 acres cultivated or occasionally in tillage, and 2600 which have never been in cultivation, 500 of which might with profit be added to the improved land of the parish. There are 400 acres under wood,—planted with larch, Scotch firs, ash, beech, elm, and birch.—The land lets from 15s. to L. 1, 15s. per acre; and the lease extends to nineteen years. The proprietor

gives great encouragement to improving and industrious tenants. A labourer earns in winter, with victuals, 1s.; in summer, 1s. 6d. without victuals. Mason-work per rood, L. 1, 4s. to L. 1, 10s. Carpenter per day, 2s. in summer, and 1s. 6d. in winter. The common breeds of cattle are black. The Highland Society and the Banffshire Farmer Club have awarded premiums; and cattle-shows have been held for several years past in the village.

The husbandry pursued generally consists in breeding cattle and raising oats. Several hundred acres have been reclaimed by draining, within these few years. The farm-buildings are generally good; but there are few enclosures. The principal improvements which have recently been made are, drainage on a large scale by the proprietor and by the tenantry,—the proprietor generally paying half the expense. The obstacles to improvement are the want of capital, and the estate held under entail. The value of potatoes per acre may be stated at L. 7; turnips, L. 5. The price of hay per acre varies, but may be reckoned at L. 3.

Produce.—

Produce of grain of all kinds,	-	L. 4910	0	0
Potatoes and turnips,	-	870	0	0
Hay and pasture grass,	-	975	0	0
Periodical felling of wood,	-	15	0	0
		L. 6770	0	0

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Means of Communication.—Near the village of Corncairn, which is a burgh of barony, there are six markets held in the year, usually called Cornhill markets. The parish is intersected by turnpike roads, in several directions, to the extent of eight miles,—on which there are four bridges in good condition.

Ecclesiastical State.—The parish church is at the extremity of the parish, was built in 1805, is in good repair, and may contain between 400 and 500 sitters. No seat rents. The extent of glebe is between 7 and 8 acres, valuing at L. 1 per acre. The amount of stipend variable, but averaging L. 160. No chapels of ease, or Government churches, or dissenting chapels in the parish. The number attending the Established Church is 660. There is one family of Episcopalians, containing 5 individuals; one family of Roman Catholics, consisting of 6; one family of Seceders of 6; and two of Independents, amounting to 6; in all, 23. Divine worship is well attended. The average number of communicants, 300. The collections on Sabbath for behoof of the poor average 10s. 6d.

There is a parochial association for promoting religious objects at home and abroad.

Education.—There are two schools in the parish; one parochial school, where Greek, Latin, mathematics, arithmetic, reading, and writing are taught; and a dame school, where sewing and knitting, reading and writing, are taught. The salary of the school-master may average about L. 30; fees in the year about L. 10. There are no persons betwixt six and fifteen who cannot read; or upwards of fifteen who cannot read or write.

Libraries.—A parochial library was established some years ago, which has diffused a taste for reading among the people, and been productive of much good; there is also a Sabbath school library.

Poor and Parochial Funds, &c.—The number of persons receiving parochial aid is 11; and the average sum allotted to each per year is L. 1, 4s. The annual amount of contributions by collection at church for the poor, L. 27; for religious and charitable purposes, L. 5. The annual amount of fines for immorality, for behoof of the poor, is L. 2, 10s. The aversion among the poor to apply for parochial aid has diminished of late, owing, perhaps, to the pressure of the times.

No prisons or jails in the parish, and but one inn.

July 1836.

PARISH OF FORGLEN.

PRESBYTERY OF TURRIFF, SYNOD OF ABERDEEN.

THE REV. JOSEPH THORBURN, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name, Boundaries, &c.—THIS parish is sometimes called Teunan or St Eunan, from a saint of that name to whom a chapel, the ruins of which still remain, is said to have been dedicated. Forglen and the neighbouring parish of Alvah were at one time joined; but, before the middle of the seventeenth century, Forglen was erected into a separate parish, and an annexation from the adjoining parish of Marnoch was made to it both *quoad sacra et civilia*. In Blaeu's map of Scotland published in 1662, and compiled before the disjunction of Forglen from Alvah, "St Eunan's Kirk" is one of the places marked.

The boundaries of this parish are, on the south and east, the river Deveron; on the west the parish of Marnoch; on the north the parish of Alvah. Its length from south-east to north-west is about $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles, its greatest breadth is 4 miles; it contains about 12 square miles. A rivulet nearly bisects the parish, at the mouth of which are the ruins of the chapel before-mentioned.

Climate, Springs, &c.—The climate is warm, compared with that of the surrounding country,—owing to the nature of the soil, and the shelter of hills and woods. Streams flowing from the northern and high grounds, and pouring their waters into the Deveron, act as drains, and tend to render the soil dry. The people are in general healthy, and many live to a great age; most are cut off by acute diseases, or die of old age. Chronic rheumatism is common. There are several perennial chalybeate springs on the bank of the Deveron, and on the higher grounds, where roots of oak are to be seen. The only river is the Deveron, which has its source in the mountains of Aberdeenshire. When it first enters the parish, it flows almost due east, it then takes a sudden turn towards the north, and continues to flow in that direction till it discharges itself into the Moray Frith at Banff.

Geology.—There is a chain of greywacke which passes through the upper district of the parish, about north and south, from a place called Craigaithry, in the upper part of the estate of Forglen, towards Auldtown of Carnousie. There is another small hill of the same rock in the middle of the parish. Indeed the western boundary of the parish may be said to be formed of a ridge of greywacke; the slight elevations towards the north are of the same rock; where the ground gradually shelves towards the river on the south and east sides, the clay-slate is to be found. In the low grounds, the clay-slate extensively prevails; direction, south-east; dip 70° . The fissures of the greywacke are, for the most part, filled up with quartz. Quartz and hyperstone are to be met with, but not in large masses. A thick species of clay-slate is to be found along the bed both of the river and rivulet, reaching near the meridian of the greywacke. The greywacke is covered by a thin layer of heath, the clay-slate by a light soil, composed chiefly of comminuted slate, mixed with vegetable mould. The soil is generally light, sandy on the river side—clayey in some places—seldom loamy.

Zoology.—Among the animals in the parish may be mentioned the following:

Canis Vulpes
 Arvicola amphibia
 Lepus timidus
 ~~~~~ cuniculus  
 Cervus Dama  
 ~~~~~ Elaphus? (red-deer)

Strix flammea
 Turdus musicus
 ~~~~~ viscivorus  
 ~~~~~ Merula  
 Sylvia Locustella
 ~~~~~ melanocephala  
 Saxicola Œnanthe  
 Emberiza citrinella  
 ~~~~~ miliaria  
 Scolopax rusticola
 Hæmatopus ostralegus
 Vanellus cristatus

Dytiscus semistriatus
 Carabus granulatus
 ~~~~~ auratus  
 ~~~~~ cupreus  
 ~~~~~ spinibarbis  
 Elater cupreus  
 Papilio brassica  
 ~~~~~ Argus  
 ~~~~~ urticæ  
 Notoxus mollis  
 Coccinella oblongo-guttata  
 ~~~~~ septem-punctata  
 Tipula oleracea
 Cassida viridis
 Attelabus formicarius
 Hydrophilus caraboides
 Libellula forcipata
 Scarabæus fimetarius
 Forficula auricularia
 Formica rufa
 Vespa crabro

Erinaceus Europæus
 Taxus vulgaris
 Mustela Putorius
 ~~~~~ Furo  
 ~~~~~ vulgaris.

BIRDS.

Corvus frugilegus
 Motacilla alba
 ~~~~~ boarula  
 Anthus Richardi  
 Parus major  
 ~~~~~ ater  
 Pyrrhula vulgaris
 Fringilla Chloris
 ~~~~~ cannabina  
 ~~~~~ Cœlebs  
 Gallinula chloropus.

INSECTS.

Vespa vulgaris
 Staphylinus politus
 ~~~~~ olens, Fab.  
 Aranea corona  
 Cantharis ruficollis  
 ~~~~~ fusca  
 Phryganea bicaudata
 Gyrinus natator
 Crabro cribrarius
 Chrysomela graminis
 Lithobius forficatus
 Cicada spumaria
 Oniscus asellus
 Opatrum sabulosum
 Hemerobius phalænoides
 Phalæna Gothica
 Noctua auricoma
 Hister striatus
 Notonecta glauca
 Culex pulicarius

Botany.—The most common plants are the following :

Bellis perennis
 Lotus corniculatus
 Cerastium viscosum
 Polygala vulgaris
 Veronica chamædrys
 ~~~~~ officinalis  
 ~~~~~ beccabunga  
 Plantago lanceolata
 Ranunculus arvensis
 ~~~~~ glaucus  
 ~~~~~ bulbosus  
 Poæ
 Scirpi
 Alopecuri
 Anthoxanthum odoratum
 Erica vulgaris
 ~~~~~ tetralix  
 ~~~~~ cinerea  
 Ulex Europæus
 Spartium scoparium
 Airæ

Leontodon taraxacum
 Cardamine pratensis
 Euphrasia officinalis
 Campanula rotundifolia
 Digitalis purpurea
 Ranunculi
 Carices
 Trifolium repens
 ~~~~~ pratense  
 ~~~~~ minus  
 Spergula arvensis
 Scabiosa succisa
 Geranium molle
 Senecio vulgaris
 Orobus tuberosus
 Mentha arvensis
 Sinapis arvensis
 Chrysanthemum leucanthemum
 Viola tricolor
 Prunella vulgaris
 Hyperica

Thlaspi bursa-pastoris
Sonchus arvensis
Thymus serpyllum
Tormentilla erecta
Stellaria media
holostea

Stellaria graminea
uliginosa
Anemone nemorosa
Primula veris
Oxalis acetosella
Junci.

The forests and plantations are chiefly composed of the Scotch fir and larch, which seem to be most suitable to the soil and climate; but oak, beech, plane, elm, Spanish chestnut, horse chestnut, and ash, are here and there interspersed.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Land-owners.—There are only three heritors in the parish: Lady Abercromby, who possesses the patronage of the church; Alexander Grant, Esq. of Carnousie; and Alexander Morrison, Esq. of Mountblairry.

Ancient Charters.—There are several very ancient charters in the hands of the Forglen family, connected with the transference of property to and from the family of the Ogylvies of Banff, of which the present Lady Abercromby is a descendant. From these, it appears that the lands of Forglen at one time belonged to the abbey of Aberbrothick, as well as the patronage of the church. The writer of this article has inspected a deed conveying the lands of Forglen, and power of presenting to the living, from Irvine of Drum to the Abbey, and another re-conveying them to the family of Irvine. These deeds are dated as far back as the beginning of the fifteenth century.

Parish Records.—The records of church discipline begin in 1659, and have been regularly kept till the present time, with the exception of five years after 1754. The register of baptisms and marriages is very imperfect. In these registers we find some notices which are worth recording, as exhibiting some interesting differences between the former and present age. It was usual at one time, before the celebration of the Lord's supper, for the minister to inquire of his session if there was any variance existing in the parish, and if there was, they took steps to have it suppressed. On one occasion it is stated, "that there was variance betwixt neighbours" in a certain district of the parish, whereupon the minister promised to travel that week among them and see what could be done.

It was enacted by the Assembly 1641, that every presbytery consisting of twelve members should maintain a bursar of Divinity, and where the number was fewer than twelve it was to be joined

with another presbytery which could count more members than the above-mentioned number. This injunction was complied with in this parish till 1801, when the practice ceased. The sum contributed was 5s. yearly.

Public appearances before the congregation in cases of discipline seem to have been given up about the year 1775. The following persons are known to have been ministers here: 1. Alexander Scroggie, 1642;* 2. Robert Brown, 1659; 3. William Blair, 1667; 4. John Dunbar, 1676; 5. James Bannerman, 1717, translated from Inveraven; 6. David Bannerman, 1741, translated to St Martins; 7. James Milne, 1759, translated to Ellon; 8. Robert Ballingal, 1775; 9. Laurence Moyes, 1796; 10. Present incumbent, 1831, translated from Aberdeen.

Antiquities.—There are the remains of a religious house where the rivulet falls into the Deveron; but nothing more is known concerning it than what has been already mentioned,—that tradition assigns it to St Eunan.—There are two barrows unopened, about 600 yards from the church.—In making a road in 1827, an urn was dug up containing a quantity of ashes. Another urn with similar contents was found in the hill of greywacke before mentioned, about twenty years ago.—A silver coin of the size of a crown piece, of the date of 1670, was lately found in the wall of an old house. It seems from the inscription to have been current in the Electorate and Archiepiscopate of Cologne.—Over the entry to the house of Forglen are placed the arms of Scotland. Below these, are the arms of the owner of the house at the time that part of it was erected,—which, we learn from one of the stones, was the year 1577. Above the royal arms, we find written, HOIP OF RE-VAIRD CAUSES GVID SERVICE; and under the arms of the family is the following inscription:

DO VEIL AND DOVPT NOCHT
ALTHOCH THOV BE SPYIT;
HE IS LYTIL GVID VORTH
THAT IS NOCHT ENVYIT;

* He seems to have been the first incumbent in the newly erected parish, and was at one time Regent in King's College, Aberdeen, from which office he had been deposed on account of his opposition to the covenant. His father at the same time was deposed from his charge as minister of Old Machar. The circumstance of the ejected regent finding refuge in Forglen is easily accounted for. The proprietor of the estate and patron of the parish was at the time George Ogilvie, a staunch adherent of Charles I., who, on account of his loyalty, was created first a baronet, and afterwards a peer with the title of Lord Banff. He, along with Aboyne, commanded the King's forces at the bridge of Dee in 1639. His title, before this, was Sir George Ogilvie of Dunlugas. He became proprietor of Forglen, by marrying the daughter of Irvine of Drum.

TAK THOV NO TENT
 QVHT EVERIE MAN TELS;
 GYVE THOV VALD LEIVE ONDEMIT
 GANG QVHAIR NA MAN DVELS.

and below this

GOD GYVES AND HAS NOCHT YE LES.

Buildings.—The houses of Forglen and Carnousie are ancient; the oldest part of the former being built about 1440, as appears from the arms and cypher on an old stone. The church, the parochial and female school-houses are modern buildings. There are two mills in the parish, originally erected for the accommodation of the tenants of Forglen and Carnousie. The materials employed for building are the stones already mentioned as common. Sometimes, however, granite and red sandstone are used, which are brought from the neighbouring parishes:

III.—POPULATION.

| | |
|--|-----|
| In 1755, the population was, according to Dr Webster's tables, | 607 |
| 1782, | 577 |
| 1788, | 613 |
| 1794, | 600 |
| 1811, | 628 |
| 1821, | 750 |
| 1831, | 820 |
| Number of families, | 166 |
| engaged in agriculture, | 77 |
| in trade, | 18 |
| of independence, | 2 |
| of males, | 378 |
| of females, | 442 |

During the last three years, there were 12 illegitimate births in the parish,—3 of which were followed by the marriage of the parents.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture and Rural Economy.—There are in the parish,

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| In a state of cultivation, | 3617 acres. |
| Waste or pasture land, | 1055 |
| Reclaimable with profit, | 1129 |
| Plantations, | 1433 |
| Total, | <hr/> 7234 |

Most of the Scotch firs, which form a considerable proportion of those plantations, have been planted. Besides these, we have the spruce fir, the larch, the ash, and the oak, all of which thrive well, and some in a superior degree. The elm, the plane, the beech, the horse-chestnut, and the lime, are found in the policies of Forglen House.

Rent of Land.—The average rent of land per acre is 18s. A year's grazing for a cow or ox costs L. 5, for a sheep, L. 1.

Rate of Wages.—Wrights receive about 11s. and masons 12s. per week ; tailors 2s. per day. A ploughman's wages for a year are L. 11 ; a woman's wages L. 5. In 1795, according to the former Statistical Account, the fee of a farm-servant was from L. 7 to L. 8 ; women received about L. 2, 10s. Wooden ploughs cost L. 3, and iron ploughs L. 3, 10s. ; carts, L. 10 ; harrows, 8s.

Live-stock.—The Aberdeenshire and Buchan are the common kinds of cattle reared in the parish, and great attention has been paid to the improvement of the stock, by the introduction of the Teeswater, the Dunrobin, and the Galloway breeds. The common breed of sheep is the Highland, which has been improved by the introduction of the Merino, the Cheviot, and the Leicester. A valuable sort is obtained by a cross of the Leicester and the Cheviot.

Husbandry.—The land generally passes through seven a years' rotation, in the following order : 1. turnips ; 2. oats or barley, with grass sown ; 3. grass cut for hay ; 4. grass ; 5. grass ; 6. oats ; 7. oats. Very little wheat is raised in the parish. This grain has been cultivated for so short a time, that a statement cannot be warranted as to whether it will be a profitable crop. The latest improvements in agriculture have been introduced. About one-third of the arable land has been reclaimed from waste within the last fifty years, and one-fourth of what is improved is drained. Leases are usually granted for nineteen years. The farm-buildings are inferior to those in the south of Scotland. The work of inclosing is making great progress. Hedges as inclosures are almost unknown. The dry stone dike is chiefly used for that purpose. The chief obstacle to improvement is want of capital. There are several quarries of clay-slate in the parish.

Fishery.—At one time, the salmon-fishing in the Deveron was of considerable value ; but now, owing, as it is supposed, to obstructions in the mouth of the river, it is much fallen off, so that the rent for three miles is only L. 5 per annum. The whole extent of the river in the parish is generally let to two individuals.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Banff, at the distance of seven miles from the northern extremity of the parish, is the nearest market-town. The post-town is Turriff, about a mile distant from the south-eastern boundary. There is no village in the parish. The extent of turnpike road may be about seven miles. Three carriers pass through, weekly, to Aberdeen. The bridges over the rivulet are in good order. That over

the Deveron, connecting this parish with Turriff, built in 1826 of red sandstone, is of great utility, and cost L. 2503.

Ecclesiastical State.—The church, which was built in 1806, and is in excellent order, is situated on the south-eastern boundary of the parish,—a very inconvenient position for the people, some of whom are between four and five miles from it. There is a mortification in favour of the minister, of 200 merks, which lies in his hand free of interest, and is transferred to his successor. This was left by the tutor of Cromarty, in testimony, it is said, of the minister's hospitality, which he had on a particular occasion enjoyed. The church accommodates between 400 and 500 persons. There are no free sittings. The manse had a very considerable addition made to it in 1828. The glebe, the yearly value of which may be stated at L. 14, consists of about $4\frac{1}{2}$ acres arable land, and between 4 and 5 acres of den fit for pasture. The teinds of the parish are exhausted. The stipend is paid partly in money and partly in meal. The money stipend is L. 134, 6s. 2d; the meal stipend 58 bolls, 3 firlots, 2 lippies, which is paid according to the fiars price, by an arrangement between the minister and heritors. The whole stipend for the year 1835 was L. 172, 15s. 6d. In favourable weather, the church does no more than accommodate the regular hearers. There are 4 Episcopalians who worship at Turriff, where there is a minister of that persuasion; and 2 Roman Catholics. All the rest of the inhabitants attend the parish church. The number of communicants is about 350. There are two extraordinary collections in the parish yearly,—one for the Aberdeen Infirmary, the other for the Assembly's India Mission and the Schools in the Highlands and Islands. On each occasion, the contribution averages somewhat above L. 5. The average amount of collections for the poor is L. 56, a considerable part of which is supplied by the family of Forglen, who are resident. Neither of the other heritors is resident. The session is composed of five members.

Education.—There are two schools in the parish,—the parochial, and the female school for sewing, which is unendowed, except that the school-house was erected by the subscriptions of the heritors and parishioners. Besides these, there are one or two schools taught by females, where the instruction is of a very elementary kind. At the parish school the branches are, English reading, geography, mathematics, Latin, writing, book-keeping, and occasionally Greek and

French. The salary of the schoolmaster is L. 34, 4s. 4½d. His fees average L. 30 yearly.

Mortified money in favour of the schoolmaster.—Mr George Bruce, minister of Dunbar, left, in 1793, L. 100 Sterling, the interest of which goes to the schoolmaster,—of whom it is required, as a condition of receiving this money, that he shall read a portion of Scripture every Sabbath, between the second and third bells. A copy of the deed of mortification is inserted in the records of the presbytery of Turriff. The interest of L. 20 has been left for educating poor children, by Mr George Gerrard. The schoolmaster has also the benefit of the Dick bequest, which may probably yield L. 30 per annum.

Most of the inhabitants of the parish can write as well as read, and, as far as is known, there are only three persons (belonging to the same family) who cannot read. The people seem to set a high value on education. The school-house is central, in excellent order, having been recently erected; and no part of the parish is so distant as to prevent the attendance even of young children. When the school is fullest, the numbers are somewhat above 100. The average may be stated between 80 and 90. Some attend from other parishes. There are between 30 and 40 attending the other schools. In the return made to Government in 1834, it is stated that the greatest number which attended the parish school from Ladyday to Michaelmas 1833 was 108; the other schools 40; total 148. Perhaps 8 of these may be from the neighbouring parishes. Suppose then 140 at school, as the population amounts to 820, there is thus about one-sixth receiving instruction. It is only justice to state, that the parish school is most effectively taught, and that the most recent improvements in education have been introduced with great success by the present schoolmaster, Mr Webster.

Sabbath Schools.—On the morning of the Sabbath, before public worship, there is a Bible class for young persons of both sexes, above the age of fourteen, who have attended with much regularity for the last four years, which is the length of time it has existed. Between 30 and 40 take advantage of this means of instruction. The success which has attended this class has been very considerable. After the dismissal of the congregation, the children meet in the Sabbath school. The greatest number which has attended this school is 78, of whom girls form the larger proportion. It is taught by well instructed persons belonging to the parish, superintended by the minister. This school is one of the most important instruments of usefulness

in the parish, and without any drawback, so far as has yet been experienced. It has studded the church with young faces, which, before it was erected, were very rare. It has rendered many of the children familiar with the Scriptures, and, it is hoped, will ultimately, in a similar manner, affect the whole youthful population. It has brought the minister acquainted with the names, faces, and dispositions of this important portion of his parishioners, and affords him every Sabbath an opportunity of conversing with them in a familiar way, of taking advantage of every local dispensation and occurrence, and speaking home to their consciences, while it also does good to parents, partly by the good feeling which it excites in them towards the instructor of their children, and reflexly, by stirring them up to the study of the Scriptures, and to a more tender walk and conversation on account of the improved knowledge and growing acquaintance with Christian character on the part of the children. The Sabbath school is at present taught in the church; but as this has been found inconvenient, the parishioners are now engaged in erecting a building near the church for Sabbath instruction.

Poor.—The following statement is to be found in the session-book about the middle of the last century: *Income*—The session had at interest L. 786, 13s. 4d. Scots, (about L. 65 Sterling); the income from collections, &c. L. 50 Scots, about L. 4 Sterling; income from interest on capital, L. 39, 6s. 8d. Scots; collections, &c. L. 50; total L. 89, 6s. 8d., about L. 7 Sterling.—*Expenditure*:—4 paupers that can do nothing, L. 104 Scots; 9 paupers that can do a little, L. 140, 8s.; total L. 244, 8s., about L. 20 Sterling. To meet this they had one-half of collections and interest of capital, L. 3, 10s. Sterling; from the heritors, L. 16, 10s.; total L. 20. The other half of collections was used for occasional and accidental cases of charity. By some notices in the parish records, it appears that it was not unusual in early times to give the Sabbath collections to travelling mendicants. In 1723, the poor funds were distributed twice in the year, and at that time the number of poor receiving regular assistance was 7. In 1755, the number of the poor had increased to 11. At both of these periods, the population seems to have been about 600. The daily collection averaged between 15s. and 16s. Scots money, and the annual allowance to each pauper was from L. 17 to L. 18 Scots.

As the subject of pauperism is intimately connected with morals, and every fact which tends to illustrate the system pursued in Scotland is of value, the following tables are subjoined:

List of particulars regarding the poor in the parish of Forglen for thirty years previous to 1834.

| <i>Years.</i> | <i>1. No. of regular poor.</i> | <i>2. No. of occasional poor.</i> | <i>3. No. of regular do. who died each year.</i> | <i>4. No. of occasional do. do.</i> | <i>5. Yearly allowance for do. in meal and money.</i> |
|---------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1805, | 19 | 0 | 1 | 0 | L. 20 10 9 |
| 1806, | 18 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 21 19 9 |
| 1807, | 18 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 21 4 3 |
| 1808, | 18 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 39 2 6 |
| 1809, | 19 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 34 8 6 |
| 1810, | 21 | 6 | 0 | 2 | 35 16 1½ |
| 1811, | 21 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 41 4 10 |
| 1812, | 23 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 62 7 9¾ |
| 1813, | 25 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 41 2 7¾ |
| 1814, | 25 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 60 2 10 |
| 1815, | 25 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 53 17 6 |
| 1816, | 24 | 10 | 0 | 1 | 60 18 10 |
| 1817, | 29 | 12 | 2 | 1 | 74 14 8 |
| 1818, | 27 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 47 13 11 |
| 1819, | 30 | 11 | 2 | 1 | 61 16 3½ |
| 1820, | 28 | 14 | 2 | 2 | 59 6 1¾ |
| 1821, | 27 | 7 | 1 | 5 | 49 11 9 |
| 1822, | 26 | 18 | 1 | 0 | 50 1 2 |
| 1823, | 27 | 16 | 1 | 0 | 59 14 4 |
| 1824, | 24 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 52 12 10¼ |
| 1825, | 27 | 7 | 2 | 0 | 65 17 7½ |
| 1826, | 27 | 9 | 0 | 1 | 53 11 9 |
| 1827, | 24 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 58 14 3½ |
| 1828, | 23 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 55 17 6 |
| 1829, | 20 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 53 2 11 |
| 1830, | 20 | 10 | 3 | 0 | 63 3 1 |
| 1831, | 19 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 68 15 11¼ |
| 1832, | 20 | 10 | 0 | 1 | 87 9 10 |
| 1833, | 20 | 11 | 2 | 2 | 64 3 9 |

In this table it will be observed, that, while the number of poor remains nearly the same, the allowance varies,—a circumstance which is to be accounted for, by the difference in the price of provisions, the severity of the season, and the occasional opening up of unexpected resources. The large sum spent in 1832 was owing to the prevalence of cholera in the country, when, to prevent the parish being visited by it, so far as human means could effect this, the session made large distributions of clothing. There was not a case of that virulent disease in the parish.

The table which follows exhibits the time when the paupers now receiving assistance were taken upon the roll :

| | | | | | |
|---|------|---|------|---|------|
| A | 1803 | H | 1819 | O | 1831 |
| B | 1814 | I | 1820 | P | 1831 |
| C | 1815 | J | 1820 | Q | 1831 |
| D | 1817 | K | 1822 | R | 1833 |
| E | 1817 | L | 1822 | S | 1833 |
| F | 1817 | M | 1822 | | |
| G | 1818 | N | 1829 | | |

In this list, all except one are females. The exception is a young man unable to gain a livelihood by a disease which seems incurable. So little is now given for the work of aged females,

that when they have become incapable of hard labour, they are altogether thrown upon the kindness of friends and the funds of the parish.

From various circumstances, there is no one who is able and willing to work, who does not find employment. The average sum received by each pauper, yearly, is L. 2, 18s. The amount of contributions for the relief of the poor in 1831 was, from collections at the church, L. 64, 6s. 8d.; from legacies, L. 12, 7s. 10d.; from interest of L. 75 mortified money, L. 3, 15s.; total, L. 80, 9s. 6d.

Library.—There is a parish library, well selected, composed of works on religious and general subjects; and it is gratifying to be able to state, that, of late, increased anxiety has been shewn to take advantage of it.

Savings Bank.—A savings bank was established in 1816. Taking a year at random, there was deposited the sum of L. 195, 19s. 4d.; there was withdrawn, the same year, the sum of L. 158, 8s. 6d. Investments were for the most part made by servants. Transactions were, for several years, suspended on account of the failure of the chief depository. This was the case when the writer of this account entered on the charge of the parish in the year 1831. Although desirous of commencing a new bank, he found the confidence in these institutions so shaken by what had befallen the former, that he saw it was in vain to attempt it, at least for some time. However, having taken frequent opportunities of explaining their importance, and shown that the late mishap was altogether apart from the principles of the bank, and entirely accidental, he ventured to offer to receive deposits in the summer of 1834; and with such success was the proposal attended, that in the course of four months there was deposited above L. 100. The sum in the savings bank at present (1836) is within a few pounds of L. 300. There is this difference between the present and former savings bank, that no contributions are now received beyond L. 40, nor from any persons not resident in the parish,—neither of which restrictions existed under the former regulations.

Inns.—There is no inn or alehouse in the parish; for resisting the introduction of which, the district is much indebted to the late Sir George Abercromby, and his son, the present Sir Robert.

Fuel.—Peat and wood are the chief materials used for fuel. The peat is obtained from the Carnousie property; the wood from Carnousie and Forglen. Coals are brought from Banff at the rate of about 10d. the cwt. exclusive of carriage.

July 1836.

PARISH OF GARTLY.

PRESBYTERY OF STRATHBOGIE, SYNOD OF MORAY.

THE REV. JOHN ROBERTSON, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Extent, Boundaries, &c.—THE parish of Gartly, though locally in Aberdeenshire, is nevertheless, legally, partly in that county and partly in the county of Banff. It is divided, nearly in the centre, by the water of Bogie, into what is called the Barony and the Braes. The Barony is in the county of Banff, and pays the land tax in that county,—the Braes are in the county of Aberdeen. This anomaly is said to have arisen from the circumstance, that the proprietor of the Barony, Baron Barclay, one of the feudal barons of the ancient Earls of Huntly, being Sheriff of the county of Banff, used means to get his domains within his own jurisdiction. The parish is of an irregular oblong form, about 12 miles in length from east to west, and $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles in breadth in the middle, and may comprise about 33 square miles. It is bounded on the east by the parishes of Inch and Kinnethmont; on the west by Cabrach and Huntly; on the south by Rhynie; and on the north by Huntly and Drumblade.

Topographical Appearances.—The boundaries on the east and west sides are hilly and chiefly covered with heath, the moors on both sides are extensive, and abound with grouse, &c. and have for some years past been let to gentlemen from the other side of the Tweed, as shooting-grounds. From the mosses on these hills, not only the inhabitants of the parish, but also of the town of Huntly, are in a great measure supplied with fuel. The mosses on the east side of the parish are now almost exhausted; but on the west side they are so deep and extensive as to be almost inexhaustible. From these hills, many small brooks fall into the Bogie. The valleys supplied by these brooks are very fertile, as well as the lands on both sides of the Bogie. The surface is, in many places, beautifully diversified with hill and dale. Some of the glens are exceedingly beautiful and picturesque. The glen of Tillyminnet, in particular, which

appears among the surrounding hills like an oasis in the desert, has been frequently visited and admired by persons of taste from various parts of the kingdom. Near the manse, there is a very curious little hill called "the Riggin," from its resemblance to the ridge of a house. It is about 500 yards in length, and about 40 feet in height. It has evidently been formed by the action of water, as it contains large masses of water sand, and an immense quantity of smooth and rounded stones. It is not unlikely that, in the course of ages, this singularly curious formation may have been raised by irruptions of the Bogie, in conjunction with torrents from the hills produced by sudden thaws after great falls of snow or long continued falls of rain. The climate of the parish is rather cold, which may be accounted for partly from its high latitude, and partly from its particular situation among the hills, which are quite destitute of wood; indeed, there is scarcely any wood in the parish except on the banks of the Bogie, which are covered with alder—a beautiful birch wood at the glen of Tillyminuet and three or four small young plantations. The numerous instances of longevity in the parish, however, afford ample evidence that the climate, though cold, is healthy.

Springs, &c.—The parish abounds with perennial springs of excellent soft water, and also with numerous very fine chalybeate springs. The Bogie takes its rise in Auchindoir, and after winding its course of about 14 miles, through the parishes of Rhynie and Gartly, unites with the Deveron a little below Huntly, and finds its way into the sea at Banff.

Geology and Mineralogy.—In regard to minerals, this parish has little to boast, with the exception of slate. Granite, a little limestone and schistus, or clayslate, are here and there met with, sufficient for the purposes of building houses and stone fences; but the limestone is so small in quantity, and so deeply seated, that no quarries have been opened, as the farmers can obtain lime from the quarries of Ardonald in the neighbouring parish of Cairnie, at a cheaper rate. Several of the hills, however, abound with excellent slate, and many quarries have been opened, which not only yield considerable rent to the proprietor, but afford employment to a number of industrious labourers, who frequently obtain good wages from the tacksmen. The soils are various. In the Braes, and on the haughs along the Bogie, the soil is, in general, a sharp loam with a considerable portion of sand, and the subsoil either sand or clay. In

the Barony, it is light and sandy, and commonly rests upon a gravelly bottom or kind of hard till, which is very difficult to pierce.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Many of the natives of this parish have risen to respectable rank in the military and medical departments, and many of them have done honour to the church established in our land. The late Dr Moodie of Edinburgh was born at Kirkstyle, during the time that a manse was building for his worthy father, then parish minister, whose memory is still held in veneration by some of the aged inhabitants—who speak of him as an able and faithful minister of the New Testament.

Parochial Registers.—Parochial registers of births and marriages have been preserved from about the commencement of the last century, and kept with tolerable regularity up to the present time.

Antiquities.—The principal antiquity in the parish is an old ruin called Castle of Gartly. In Chalmers's *Life of Mary Queen of Scots*, it is stated, that this beautiful but unfortunate princess, on her return from an excursion to Inverness and Ross-shire, “repassed through the country of the Gordons, which had once been held out as so frightful. She remained a night at Gartly, where there is still a ruined castle, and the parish whereof belongs even now to the Duke of Gordon.”—The sites of four Roman Catholic chapels are still pointed out in the Braes, namely, at Heathery hillock, Brawlinknows, Tillythrowie, and Kirkney; and the vestiges of some of them and of the burial-grounds thereto attached are still visible. There were, of late years, a number of tumuli on a piece of ground called “the buried men’s legs” on the farm of Mill-hill, near the church, where a skirmish was fought after the battle of Harlaw, in the flight of a party of Highlanders in 1411. Several of the cairns were cleared away, about thirty-five years ago; and in one of them were found the remains of two dirks, the handles of which were pretty entire, but the blades much decayed. In another, were found two large brass buckles about four inches broad, probably used in buckling their claymores. There was also lately found, in a cairn on the farm of Faich-hill, an urn containing bones; and a large one pretty entire on the farm of Riskhouse. The present farmer of Cockston, within these last few years, found on his farm an earthen pot containing round pieces of stamped leather, which was supposed to have been used in ancient times as coin,—but in such a state of decay, that they mouldered away at the touch. A stone coffin was lately found by Captain Gordon of the Royal Artillery on his farm

of Coldran. There is an eminence on a hill between Corneattarach and Malsach hill, called Yaiken or Oaken Bank, said to have been covered in ancient times with oak wood, and from which it is reported that the cupples of the old church were taken.—The remains of some oak trees are still to be seen in one of the mosses, and also of fir-trees of considerable size.—The ashes of the Viscount of Aboyne and several of his followers, and of John Gordon, laird of Rothiemay, who were burned in the old tower of the House of Frendraught, in the parish of Forgue, in 1630, (as related by Spalding,) were buried in a vault in the church of Gartly, which is still to be seen. There is a tradition, which appears to be well-founded, that that merry monarch, James I. of Scotland, who was in the habit of visiting different parts of the kingdom in disguise, in one of his rambles, spent a night at a place called “ Muirellis.” The *gudeman* was so well pleased with the humour and jokes of the royal *incog*, that he ordered the *gudewife* to kill “ the hen nearest the cock” for a repast to his pleasant companion. The King, on the other hand, was so much pleased with the kindness and hospitality of his entertainer, that he obtained a grant from the Earl of Huntly, that he and his descendants should occupy the possession rent free, which it is said they did, for many generations. There is also a tradition that an infant son of the Baron of Gartly was drowned, on returning from being baptized at the chapel of Brawlinknows, when the water of Bogie was flooded after a great fall of rain; and the place where it was said the infant was drowned, is still called “ Lord John’s Pot.”

III.—POPULATION.

The number of inhabitants in this parish, about fifty or sixty years ago, was much greater than it is at present. It was

| | | |
|----------|---|------|
| in 1755, | - | 1328 |
| 1783, | - | 2000 |
| 1793, | - | 1800 |

At the census before last, it fell to 979. This decrease can only be imputed to the principal tenants extending their farms and removing their cottagers. It has, however, since that time increased considerably, and is now 1136. This increase has chiefly arisen from the additional number of labourers lately employed at the slate quarries, many of whom are married and have families.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|-----|
| The annual average of births for the last seven years is, | - | - | 22 |
| of marriages, | - | - | 10 |
| Number of persons under 15 years of age,- | - | - | 486 |
| between 15 and 30, | - | - | 291 |
| 30 and 50, | - | - | 181 |
| 50 and 70, | - | - | 150 |
| above 70, | - | - | 28 |

The average number of children in each family is nearly 3; the number of blind in the parish, 2; of deaf and dumb, 1.

| | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|-----|
| Number of families in the parish, | - | - | - | - | 215 |
| chiefly employed in agriculture, | - | - | - | - | 143 |
| in trade, manufactures, or handicraft, | - | - | - | - | 50 |

During the last three years there have been 12 illegitimate births in the parish.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.—The parish contains about 14,627 Scotch acres, of which 4325 are under cultivation, and 10,302 in pasture, wood, moor, and moss. Many of the moors are well calculated for growing wood, and, were they planted, would tend not only to beautify the country, but also to afford shelter and improve the climate. The only undivided common in the parish is the Malshach hill and its adjoining moors, which are common to all the tenants in the barony; but few of them avail themselves of this privilege, as the pasture is rather poor. A considerable part of the moor, however, might be cultivated with advantage. The average rent of arable land is about L. 1 Sterling per Scotch acre.

Wages.—Men-servants receive from L. 5, 5s. to L. 6, 6s. in the half-year; women for summer, from L. 2 to L. 3, and in winter from L. 1, 5s. to L. 1, 15s.; herds from L. 1 to L. 2, all with victuals. Country wrights, who go from house to house, receive from 1s. 3d. to 1s. 6d. a-day; masons are generally employed by the rood, and their charge is from L. 1 to L. 1, 14s. per rood for plain rubble work: slaters charge from 12s. to 15s. per rood; blacksmiths, when they afford material, charge from 4d. to 8d. per lb. for made work, and 1s. a-day with victuals.

Husbandry.—Since the introduction of turnip husbandry, cattle have been much improved, and more attention than formerly is now paid to the best breeds. The old Aberdeenshire breed crossed by the Argyleshire is undoubtedly best suited for the district. There are only a few farmers about the hill-sides who keep sheep; and it is not believed that there are above 1600 or 1800 sheep in the parish, which are generally of the black-faced kind. The common duration of leases is nineteen years, which is considered as sufficiently favourable to the occupier. Much improvement has been recently made upon many of the farm-steadings, and a considerable part of the waste land has been drained and improved. In the year 1828, George Gordon, Esq. in Bucharn, obtained the Highland Society's honorary gold medal, for 160 acres of land improved on that farm, during the seven preceding years. This gen-

tleman and a few others have also subdivided and enclosed their fields with very substantial stone dikes; but in general very little has been done in the way of enclosing, though this is one of the greatest improvements for the country.

Produce.—

The average produce of grain of all kinds may be reckoned about

| | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---------|----|---|
| 10,000 bolls,—value, | - | - | - | - | - | L. 7500 | 0 | 0 |
| 432 acres of turnip, | - | - | - | - | - | 2592 | 0 | 0 |
| 108 do. of potatoes, | - | - | - | - | - | 865 | 0 | 0 |
| 60760 stones of hay, | - | - | - | - | - | 1518 | 15 | 0 |
| Value of pasture, | - | - | - | - | - | 1318 | 0 | 0 |

L. 13,793 15 0

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

There are neither villages nor market-towns in the parish. The nearest market-town is Huntly, which is about four miles from the parish church, but only about one mile from that part of the parish which is bounded by Huntly. The means of communication enjoyed by the parish are tolerably good. Some of the by-roads, as it may be supposed, are very indifferent in winter or after much rain; but as there are about four miles of turnpike on the line of road from Huntly to Rhynie and Kinnethmont, on which two public coaches travel daily, and about one mile and a-half through the Foudland hills, which on the one side joins the turnpike road from Huntly to Aberdeen, and on the other leads to the village of Inch in the Garioch,—the parish, upon the whole, enjoys considerable facilities in the way of communication with the principal market-towns to which the farmers have occasion to resort.

Ecclesiastical State.—The kirk was built in the year 1621, but it has at different periods undergone so many repairs and changes that, with the exception of the steeple, there is perhaps very little of the old building now remaining. It was new seated, and otherwise substantially repaired, about twelve years ago. It is nearly central to the greater part of the population, though the extreme distance of a small part of it, on one side, is nearly seven miles, and on the other about four. It affords accommodation for about 550 persons, and the sittings are all free. A very substantial and commodious new manse was built in the year 1821. The glebe, including the garden and sites of the manse and offices, is about eleven Scotch acres, and may be estimated at about L. 16 a year. The stipend is fourteen chalders of victual, one-half in barley, and the other in meal, with L. 8, 6s. 8d. for affording communion elements. Number of families attending the Established Church about 160; persons of all ages, 500; number of Dissent-

ing families, 10 ; of persons, 34 ; Episcopalian, 1 ; Roman Catholic, 1 ; of families, in which persons attending the Established Church and dissenters are nearly equal, 9 ; average number of communicants in the Established Church, 400. With the exception of prayer meetings, of which there are five or six in the parish, there are no societies for religious purposes established in the parish, as it is near Huntly, where there are flourishing Bible and missionary societies, of which a considerable number of the people of this parish are members, and to which they contribute pretty liberally. The average amount of church collections for religious and charitable purposes, exclusive of the weekly Sabbath collections for the poor, may be about L. 10 Sterling a year.*

Education.—There is only one regular permanent school in the parish, namely, the parochial ; but there are generally one or two schools taught by females for the benefit of young children, and the instruction of girls in sewing ; and during the winter, one or two teachers are frequently engaged for instructing the children of such families as are at a distance from the parish school, in reading, writing, and arithmetic. These branches, together with Latin and the elements of mathematics, are taught at the parish school. The general annual expense of education is, for reading, 10s. ; reading and writing, 12s. ; arithmetic, 16s. ; Latin, L. 1 ; mathematics, &c. L. 1, 10s. The children between six and fifteen years of age are in general taught to read, and the greater part of them also to write. Children above ten years of age could generally attend school, with the exception of three families, whose distance from it is about seven miles ; but an additional school for these families and others who are more than four miles from school, would be of great consequence. The salary of the schoolmaster, including the statutory allowance for a garden, is about L. 32, 10s. and the amount of school fees, L. 15.

Literature.—There is a parochial library in the parish, consisting of upwards of 200 volumes on divinity, history, biography, voyages, travels, and on other subjects connected with agriculture,—which has, it is hoped, been instrumental in increasing the intelligence and promoting the moral improvement of the people.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The average number of persons receiving parochial aid is 20, and the average sum allotted to each annually, nearly L. 2 Sterling. The annual amount of funds for their

* Since this Account was given in, a society for religious purposes has been established in the parish, which is likely to prosper.

relief is, from church collections, L. 25; interest of funds, L. 12; penalties from delinquents, L. 3; total L. 40. Necessity alone compels the poor in general to apply for parochial relief, as such application is almost universally considered to be of a humiliating and degrading nature.

Inns.—There is only one inn in the parish, in a situation which renders it necessary for the accommodation of travellers; and being kept by a person of very decent and respectable character, it is believed that it has produced no bad effects on the morals of the people.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

Since the last Statistical Account was drawn up, there has been a considerable improvement both in respect of the general intelligence and morality of the people, and the comforts of domestic life. While the price of labour and land rent is nearly double, the price of grain is nearly the same. The value of cattle is indeed greater, but does not afford a sufficient remuneration to the farmer. The system of husbandry (the seven-shift course) is perhaps, upon the whole, best adapted to the soil, climate, and local circumstances of the parish; but if agriculture continues in its present depressed state, a reduction of rent would appear to be absolutely necessary to stimulate and reward the industry, and promote the comfort and happiness of the tenantry; and, as they hold their possessions from a family who have been long distinguished for a regard to their prosperity, there can be little doubt that, if a favourable change does not soon take place in the value of agricultural produce, this boon will not long be withheld.

July 1836.

PARISH OF MORTLACH.

PRESBYTERY OF STRATHBOGIE, AND SYNOD OF MORAY.

THE REV. MORRIS FORSYTH, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—THE name is very ancient. In the charter given by Malcolm II. about 850 years ago, to the first bishop of this early see, it was called Morthelac or Morthlac. From the situation of the church, which is in a deep and hollow valley, some naturally enough think it is a corruption of the Gaelic word Morlay, *great hollow*,—while others derive it from Mortislacus, the lake of death, alluding to a battle which was fought here, and which will be noticed in its proper place. Various other fanciful etymologies have been given.

Extent, Boundaries.—Surrounded by Glass on the east, Cabrach and Inveraven, including Glenlivat, on the south, Aberlour on the west,—with Boharm and Botriphnie towards the north,—it lies 51 miles north-west from Aberdeen, and 30 south from Banff. Its form is irregular; the greatest length from the head of Glenrinnnes to the point where it borders the Spey on the north, is fully 11 miles; and the greatest breadth, from the banks of the Doveran to the foot of Benrinnnes may be as much. It is encompassed with hills, the principal of which are Corhabbie and Benrinnnes. The latter towers conspicuous above all the others, being distinctly visible from the sea, from which it forms a good land-mark. Its height above the level of the sea is estimated at 2561 feet; from its base, 1680.

Climate, Springs.—The air is pure and wholesome, though rather moist than dry. We have several chalybeate springs similar to those of Peterhead. There is one of a petrifying nature between Morthven and Boharm. Besides the Doveran, which merely skirts the parish towards the south, the only two rivulets in the parish, are the Fiddich and Dullen. The former has its source in Glenfiddich, towards Strathdon, the latter in Glenrinnnes, on the boundaries of Glenlivat; they unite about a mile below the church, and,

after a course of about 5 miles farther northward, run into the Spey. Their whole course may be about 12 or 14 miles.

Geology and Mineralogy.—Limestone of good quality is found in the whole district. On some of the hills, particularly on the Conval, there is great abundance of granite well suited for building; and on others, abundance of coarse gray slate. On the burn of the Tullich on the Kininvie property, there is some appearance of alum and lead; and in one or two other places, there is a laminated rock, somewhat of the nature of asbestos. Antimony, in small quantities, is found imbedded in the lime rocks, while their fissures abound in calcespar. Small garnets, too, are sometimes found imbedded in the gray slate near the farm of Parkbeg, on the east side of the Fiddich.

The soil is generally loamy, pretty deep, and fertile.

Zoology.—Here are plenty of foxes, weasles, hares, badgers and otters. In the Duke of Gordon's forests of Glenfiddich, the red-deer are very numerous; and at the head of it, there are convenient shooting quarters. Among birds, we have none more uncommon than the blackbird, thrush, goldfinch, bullfinch, linnet, and robin. We have also the migratory cuckoo, lapwing, and swallow; and in the heath, there are grouse in abundance, and a few ptarmigan and black-cock.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Shaw's History of the province of Moray contains, if not the most ancient, the best account of the civil history of this parish. Of historical events worthy of observation, the most memorable is that called the battle of Mortlach, in which Malcolm II. obtained a complete victory over the Danes, in the year 1010. Malcolm had suffered a signal defeat from the Danes the preceding year, and was compelled to leave them masters of the lands of Moray. Anxious, however, to expel these daring intruders, he returned, the year following, from the south with a powerful force, and the Danes having intelligence of his motions, came forward to give him battle. The armies having approached each other, in the neighbourhood of the church of Mortlach, engaged a very little to the northward of it. In the beginning of the attack, while pushing on with too ardent an impetuosity, Kenneth, Thane of the Isles, Dunbar, Thane of Laudian, and Graeme, Thane of Strathearn, were unfortunately slain. Panic-struck by the loss of three of their generals, the Scotch got into confusion. Everything was now in a most doubtful state. The King, who had the character

of a brave, sensible, and pious man, was reluctantly borne along by the retreating crowd, till he was opposite the church of Mortlach, then a chapel dedicated to St Molach. The narrowness of the pass here abated a little the career of the pursuing Danes; and the flying army having a short space to breathe, were, from the very nature of the ground, again almost necessarily collected. The appearance of the consecrated walls inspired the monarch, in that age of superstition, with a devotional impulse. He prayed, paid homage to the Virgin Mary and the tutelary saint, according to the manners of the times. and addressed himself in an animating speech to his countrymen and fellow-soldiers. At this critical moment, he put himself at the head of his forces, again pressed on the foe, threw Euetus, one of the Danish generals, from his horse, and killed him with his own hand. The charge was vigorously renewed; and, under the mingled influence of patriotism and religion, the Scotch, carrying all before them, achieved the victory. Soon after this defeat, the Danes left the kingdom. There are some appearances indicating that the final engagement, after rallying, happened a few hundred yards to the south-west of the Castle of Balverly; and it seems more than probable, that the more ancient part of that building was then in existence, for a fort is mentioned as near the field of battle. *

Antiquities.—The two old Castles of Auchindown and Balverly deserve to be mentioned. They are, at present, in a ruinous state, but were, about two hundred years ago, both inhabited. When they were first built, and by whom, is not known. The former stands in a bold and commanding situation, on the banks of the Fiddich, and has, since the year 1535, been in possession of the Gordon family. The latter stands on a beautiful eminence, a little below the confluence of the Fiddich and Dullen, and is now the property of the Earl of Fife. On its front and over its high and massy gate still remaining, is a motto of the Stewarts, Earls of Athol, descriptive of the savage valour and unhappy circumstances of the times: “Furth Fortune and Fill thi Fettris.”

Among some rubbish dug up about fifteen years ago, in the ruins of the Castle of Auchindown, a massive gold ring of three links was found, with a motto inscribed upon it, which, as it could only be read when the rings were in a certain position, seems to have been intended as a puzzle. It is supposed to be in the possession

* Vide Fordun, Boetius, &c.

of the Gordon family. Besides these, there are various traditional and sure memorials of the famous battle of Mortlach, which our present limits will only allow us briefly to mention.

1. The vestiges of an intrenchment on the Conval hill, called the Danish Camp.

2. A huge and irregularly rounded stone, now part of the fence about a corn field, said to have been placed over the grave of Euetus.

3. Near the same place, is a small square piece of ground almost covered with whins, into which multitudes of the dead were thrown.

4. Three lengths of Malcolm's spear added to the length of the church, in fulfilment of his vow.

5. Three of the Danes' skulls built into the north wall of the church, the moulds of which are to this day quite distinct.

6. A large upright stone about seven feet high, on the one side of which are rudely carved the cross and two figures of animals, and on the other side a snake.

Modern Buildings.—A small neat Roman Catholic chapel, built a few years ago, and a jail now in progress on the square in the village, are the only modern buildings worthy of notice.

III.—POPULATION.

It would appear, that, about fifty years previous to the date of the former Account, the parish had been considerably more populous than it then was. Since the census of 1821, it has increased,—which has been chiefly owing to the giving of land for feus, on part of Lord Fife's property. The village of Dufftown, which was begun in 1817, contains 756 souls, and the country part of the parish 1877—making a total of 2633. The yearly average of births for the last seven years is 64; of deaths, 34; and of marriages, 10. An allowance may be made for two or three births omitted to be registered every year.

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|------|
| Population under 15 years of age, | . | 971 |
| from 15 to 30, | . | 574 |
| 30 to 50, | . | 661 |
| 50 to 70, | . | 349 |
| upwards of 70, | . | 78 |
| Total, | | 2633 |

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|----|
| Number of bachelors above 50, | . | 28 |
| unmarried women, above the age of 45, | . | 81 |

Land-owners.—The proprietors of land of the yearly rent of L. 50 and upwards are 5, viz. The Heir of the late Duke of Gor-

don; Lord Fife; Mr Leslie of Kininvie; Mr Gregory of Buchromb; and Mr Duff of Drummur. The only resident heritor is Mr Gregory, Buchromb.

Upon the whole, the inhabitants are a sedate and religious people, and in comfortable circumstances. We hear occasionally of poachers in our hills; but, fortunately, illegal distillation, which at one time was carried on to a great extent in this parish, has of late, from the high fines imposed by the excise on those detected in it, become, it is believed, extinct.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.—The gross rental of the parish is, as nearly as can be ascertained, about L. 4500. Of 35,000, the supposed number of acres in the parish, 5000 may be under cultivation, 30,000 waste or in pasture, of which from 400 to 500 may be capable of improvement, and 600 under wood, consisting principally of ash, elm, plane, birch, oak, Scotch fir, larch, &c.

Rent of Land.—The land is generally rented at about L. 1 per acre, while the expense of grazing is at the rate of L. 2, 2s. per ox, and 2s. 6d. per ewe or full-grown sheep.

Rate of Wages.—Day-labourers at farm or other work receive from 1s. 6d. to 1s. 10d. per day without victuals, in winter from 1s. to 1s. 4d.; wrights per day of ten hours, 1s. 8d. to 2s.; masons, do. 1s. 10d. to 2s.; farm-servants by the half year, maintained in the family, men from L. 3 to L. 6; women from L. 1, 10s. to L. 2, 10s.; mason-work per rood for workmanship, L. 1 to L. 1, 5s.; slate do. 12s. to 16s.

Live-stock, &c.—The sheep are of the black-faced breed, and the cattle a cross between the Highland and Aberdeenshire breed.

The state of husbandry is in general good, and of late much spirit in improving waste land, draining, &c. has been displayed.

Quarries.—There are several limestone and slate quarries within the parish, and though there is plenty of granite also, no quarry of this description has been wrought.

Produce.—According to a calculation made by an individual of much experience, the annual produce is as follows:

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|---|---|---|-----------|
| Grain raised in the parish, | - | - | - | - | L. 8935 |
| Potatoes, turnips, &c. | - | - | - | - | 3215 |
| Hay, including grass pasture, | - | - | - | - | 3000 |
| Gardens and orchards, | - | - | - | - | 80 |
| The annual thinning of wood, | - | - | - | - | 120 |
| Two lime works, | - | - | - | - | 2000 |
| | | | | | <hr/> |
| | | | | | L. 17,300 |

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Village, &c.—In Dufftown, the only village in the parish, there is no regular weekly market; but grain is brought there for the convenience of dealers, who from time to time resort to the village.

There are five cattle markets annually, which are well frequented. The nearest market-town, properly so called, is Keith, distant eleven miles. At Dufftown, there is a daily post which branches off from Craigellachie. The turnpike roads from Mortlach to Elgin, Keith and Fochabers extend six miles through the parish; but, since the great flood of 1829, both the roads and the bridges over the Dullen and Fiddich have been entirely neglected.

Ecclesiastical State.—The minister's stipend is 15 chalders, one-half barley and the other half meal, converted into money at the fiars prices of the county, and L. 8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements. The glebe, worn away at different periods by the inroads of the Dullen, is, at the present period, about 5 acres in extent. An addition was made to the very old manse in 1807.

The church, which is indeed venerable, may accommodate 1500 sitters. It was a little modernized by an addition made to it seven years ago. Its walls are most probably as old as the beginning of the eleventh century, and so strong, that they may stand for many years to come. Its situation is convenient for the most populous district of the parish. At the head of the parish, in Glenrinnes, there is a missionary chapel. The present incumbent, the Rev. Alexander Falconer, is paid L. 60 out of the Royal bounty. He has, besides, a free house and garden, with three acres of land. He preaches regularly, and catechises. Near the church, as before-mentioned, stands a handsome Catholic chapel. Of late years, in consequence of several families of that persuasion having taken feus and settled in the village, their numbers have increased, and amount at present to 170. From 40 to 50 of these are from neighbouring parishes. Divine service is regularly attended at the parish church, and the number of communicants never less than 700. There are no dissenting meeting-houses, nor any society for religious purposes, in the parish.

Education.—Besides the parochial school, the average number of scholars at which is about 90, there is a school in Glenrinnes, supported by the Committee of the General Assembly, the number of scholars attending which is about 80 in winter, and 30 in summer; also one in the village, supported solely by school fees, and two in Auchindown, the teachers of which receive annually L. 4 from

the Duchess of Gordon. The parochial schoolmaster has the maximum salary and the legal accommodations. All persons in the parish, of proper age, can read, and almost all write a little.

Libraries.—There is a small circulating library in the parish, and also a small library for the use of the children who attend the Sabbath school.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The number of paupers at present on the roll may be about 60, and these are wholly supported by collections made in the church, which may average from 11s. to 12s. weekly, and the interest of 1500 merks bequeathed by William Duff, and L. 100 by Mr Alexander Forbes, a native of this parish. The interest of this last sum can only, in terms of Mr Forbes's will, be given to four families annually. Besides the above 1500 merks bequeathed by Mr Duff for behoof of the poor, he also bequeathed 500 merks for behoof of the schoolmaster. Dr John Lorimer, formerly of this parish, left L. 200 for the maintenance of a bursar at the school of Mortlach, and L. 200 more to enable him, if so inclined, to prosecute his studies at Marischal College, Aberdeen. It may be proper to observe, that the statement given in the former Statistical Account of this parish, of a sum of money having been bequeathed by a gentleman of the name of Moir, for the maintenance of a bursar from this parish, was incorrect.

July 1836.

PARISH OF ABERLOUR.

PRESBYTERY OF ABERLOUR, SYNOD OF MORAY.

THE REV. ALEXANDER WILSON, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—THE name of this parish was originally Skirkdustan, from the word *Skir*, meaning, in the original Gaelic, to cut or divide, and *Dustan*, the name of its tutelary saint ; the whole signifying Dustan's division or parish. It takes its modern name of Aberlour from its situation, the word literally signifying *the locality near the influx of a noisy burn* ; which burn, discharges itself into the Spey, about the middle of the northern boundary of the parish.

Boundaries, Extent, &c.—Aberlour is situated in the western part of the county of Banff ; about 34 miles from the county town ; 14 miles from Keith ; 14 from Elgin ; and 5 from Dufftown.

The form of the parish nearly resembles a wedge. It extends 9 miles along the southern bank of the Spey, from the hill of Carron on the west, to the influx of the Fiddich on the east, forming its northern boundary. Its eastern boundary, which represents the point of the wedge, extends backwards from the junction of the Fiddich with the Spey, for about a mile of arable ground in a south-east direction ; the line of boundary then rises, in a south-west direction, along the summit of the Conval hills, and gradually diverges from the Spey, until, reaching the western boundary at the south-western extremity, it makes the greatest breadth of the parish nearly equal to its length.

On the north, it is separated from the parishes of Knockando and Rothes by the river Spey ; on the east, from Boharm, by the small river Fiddich ; on the south-east, from Mortlach by the Conval hills, and the brook Dullan in the vale of Glenrinnes ; and on the west, from Inveraven, by a line that passes from the rivulet Tervey over the western shoulder of Benrinnes and the hill of Carron to the river Spey.

Topographical Appearances.—There is an almost complete mountain chain towards the southern part of the parish, consisting of the

Blue-hill, east and west Conval hills, the mountain of Benrinnes, and the broad hill of Cairnakay. This chain extends in an eastern and western direction. The three first mentioned hills belong partly to this parish, and partly to Mortlach; the mountain of Benrinnes is almost wholly embraced by Aberlour; and the last mentioned hill, Cairnakay, which completes the chain, belongs entirely to the parish of Inveraven. Besides these, Aberlour contains part of the hill of Carron, which is situated on the borders of Inveraven, close to the banks of the river Spey, and separated from Benrinnes by a narrow valley.

Benrinnes is a steep and sharp-pointed mountain, as its name from the original Gaelic implies, 2747 feet above the level of the sea, and 1876 feet from its own base. Its south and east sides or acclivities, particularly the south, are very steep, thereby verifying the observation of Bergman, who, in his physical geography, maintains, that “in chains ranging from east to west, the southern acclivity is the steepest.” This is the highest hill in the country, for many miles round. From the top may be seen, in a clear day, the Grampian hills to the south, the romantic valley and hills of Glenaven to the west, and to the north, as far as the mountains of Ross, Sutherland, and Caithness. It commands a prospect of the sea for many miles along the coasts of Moray and Banff-shires, and forms a useful land-mark on that part of the ocean. A deep and narrow gorge or pass to the east separates this mountain from the Convals. This pass, called Glack-harnis, deserves particular notice, on account of its great length, its uniform breadth at the bottom, and the immense height and regularity of the slope on both its sides.

The Convals are obtuse and dome-shaped hills, of twin appearance, considerably lower than Benrinnes, and entirely covered with heath.

Running as an elbow from the western part of the Blue-hill, and to the north of the Convals, lies an elevated patch of land of a hilly description, called Allachie; but the whole of this is either planted or under cultivation.

The main valley is embraced by this elevated land, the Convals and Benrinnes. The southern part of this valley, which partly consists of sloping land at the foot of the Convals, is called the Daugh or district of Edinville, and is separated by a brook to the north-east from the land of Allachie; and by the burn of Aberlour to the north, from the daugh of Ruthrie; which last, situated in

the mouth of the valley, and becoming a little elevated to form its northern acclivity, continues at nearly the same level, till within a few hundred yards of the Spey.

To the north-west of the daugh of Ruthrie, and at nearly the same level, lies the Daugh of Kinnermony, a small part of which consists of haugh or holm land on the banks of the Spey, communicating with the more elevated parts, by a gentle slope.

The Daugh of Carron lies to the west of that of Kinnermony, from which it is separated by a mountain rivulet, which runs in a very deep ravine. A considerable part of this division lies lower than the former, descending gradually from the borders of Inveraven on the west, and forming a continuation of the valley between Benrinnes and the hill of Carron, already mentioned. Here, towards the Spey, there is a considerable extent of fine holm land.

To the east of the Daugh of Ruthrie, and separated from it by the burn of Aberlour, lies the elevated land formerly mentioned, called the Daugh of Allachie, and to the east of this last, that of Aberlour,—both descending, by an almost uniform slope of an elevation of nine or ten degrees, till within a short distance of the Spey. Close upon the Spey, Allachie contains a little holm land; and still farther back from the river, a terrace about ten feet above the former, presents a considerable surface of level land extending to the foot of the acclivity.

The Daugh of Aberlour also contains a little holm land, and is watered by two rivulets which descend from the Blue-hill, and uniting form the burn called Allachoy; which burn divides Aberlour, on the east, from the daugh of Drumfurrich.

This last Daugh embraces all the eastern part of the parish situated between the burn of Allachoy and the river Fiddich, and is mostly of a level description, with the exception of a little sloping land at the foot of the Blue-hill, and the rising ground of Tamaurie, near the river, which descends gradually to the south-east, and is entirely cultivated on that side, but falls precipitately to the north-west, where its rocky foot is washed by the Spey. This Daugh also contains two beautiful fields of holm land.

The remaining part of the cultivated land belonging to the parish lies in the narrow vale of Glenrinnes; between which and the main body of the parish, the pass called Glack-harnis, formerly mentioned as separating Benrinnes from the western Conval, opens an almost level communication.

The district to the north of the brook Dulnan, which winds in the

bottom of the vale, appertains to Aberlour, and contains several good fields, partly level and partly sloping from the foot of the hills.

Climate.—The climate of the parish is, on the whole, temperate; along the river, it is warm,—so much so, that there is frequently little appearance of snow here, when the surrounding country is covered with it. Those parts in the neighbourhood of Benrinnes and the Convals, and especially the district of Glenrinnes, suffer more from Alpine inclemency, than any other parts of the parish.

In the commencement of winter, Benrinnes is usually covered with snow, or, as the country people say, “has on its night-cap,” long before any part of the surrounding country.

The harvests in the neighbourhood of this and the adjoining hills, and in the district of Glenrinnes, are a few weeks later than in the vicinity of the Spey, partly owing to the traces of winter continuing longer, and partly to the great quantity of rain, which, from the proximity of the hills, falls there during summer.

Although a few weeks of severe drought during summer have been supposed at the time to be injurious to the crops, yet for several years prior to 1835, and, indeed, in general, there has not been much occasion to complain of want of rain in any part of the parish.

Hydrography.—Owing to the rapidity of the current, the Spey is little broader here than in Badenoch, fifty miles nearer its source, where the water flows more slowly. The fields in the immediate vicinity frequently suffer a little from overflowings of the river; and August 1829 witnessed the greatest and most destructive flood within the memory of any living inhabitant. In 1768, the water is recorded to have risen eighteen feet perpendicular above its ordinary level, but this was exceeded in 1829 by about eighteen inches. All the holm land belonging to the parish was more or less injured, along with the crops that it bore at the time,—the soil of some fields being carried off to the extent of many acres bare to the channel, and others covered with sand and rough gravel to the depth of several feet. The dry stone arches which formed the eastern approach to the metal bridge of Craig Ellachie (to be noticed hereafter,) were entirely swept away, leaving only a few yards of mason work to be a precarious support to that end of the arch. A cottage, garden, and offices near the foot of the bridge were entirely carried off; and much damage was done to furniture

and property in other parts of the parish by the water, which stood to the height of four or five feet in some dwelling-houses.

There is a beautiful cascade called the Lynn of Ruthrie, on the Burn of Aberlour, about a mile above where it runs into the Spey. The stream, after occupying several yards of a smooth channel worn out by the water in the solid rock, is precipitated from a height of thirty feet, and, being broken in its fall about the middle of this height, by a projecting platform of the same rock, falls into a circular pool or basin below, formerly of immense depth, but now greatly filled up by the boulders and debris brought from the hills in the flood of 1829. The rock, which is of red granite, rises to a great height above the fall; and with its sylvan cover of birch and other shrubs presents, along with the fall, a very romantic and beautiful appearance.

Soil, &c.—The few fields of holm land, formed by the river, consist of a rich deep loam mixed with sand. A little farther from the river, a like mould occurs on a bed of rough gravel. Towards the foot of the hills, in the east and middle parts of the parish, the soil becomes a deep clay on a bed of gravel, covered with a thin alluvial soil; and towards the foot of Benrinnes, there occurs a good deal of moss on patches lately improved from heathy surfaces. About the centre of the parish, there is a good deal of rich alluvial soil on granite rock, and there is still more soil, of the same productive nature, on alternate beds of clay and gravel, towards the eastern and western extremities of the parish, at the same distance from the river. The soil of that part of Glenrinnes which belongs to Aberlour consists partly of loam and partly of clay, upon a pretty uniform rock of limestone, and averages from one to three feet in depth.

No lime-rock is found in this parish or Inveraven, north of the mountain chain; but south of the chain, the parishes of Mortlach, Aberlour in Glenrinnes, and Glenlivet in Inveraven, are pervaded by that useful rock, which runs in a continued vein through the whole of these districts.

Mortlach supplies great part of Aberlour with lime at 2s. per boll, which answers the purposes of the farmer better here than in limestone districts, by rendering the soil very productive. The farmers in the upper part of the parish, from their near locality to Glenrinnes, prefer driving limestones from a quarry there, which they burn for themselves on their own farms.

The difference of soil in the Glenrinnes district, from that near the

Spey, has likewise, as well as the difference of climate, formerly mentioned, a marked effect on the period and continuance of vegetation. In the latter situation, where the soil is comparatively light and sandy, vegetation is early, but the growth of grass, &c. generally begins to fail by midsummer; whereas in the more retentive soil of Glenrinnies, vegetation is but partial until the day is longest; but here the grazing continues good in autumn, when the fields on Spey side are comparatively bare.

Zoology.—The migratory birds, the cuckoo, lapwing, and swallow, make their appearance here at stated seasons during spring and summer, and disappear towards autumn, sometimes a little earlier or later, according to the comparative mildness of the season. The woodcock, too, generally appears in autumn, and disappears again about the end of April. Roe-deer may be found on the hill of Carron, and black-cock may be generally found there, although not very numerous. Partridges, plover, grouse, and hares abound on the hills of the parish, particularly Benrinnies, which is understood to be the nursery of game, to the moors of the surrounding country, to a great distance. There are also snipes and wild ducks to be found in the vale of Glenrinnies. White hares, ptarmigans, and eagles are sometimes seen on the top of Benrinnies. Foxes and wild cats still exist in the parish, but are becoming more rare.

There is good salmon and trout fishing in the Spey and Fiddich. Several pools in the former opposite to this parish are supposed to equal any other, for rod-fishing, in the whole course of that river.

The fishing commences on the 1st of February, and closes on the 14th September; and a little after the latter period, the fish come up for spawning, and, sometime before the former, they return again to the sea.

During the time of spawning, a small bird called the water-cock abounds in the Spey and its tributaries, which is considered very destructive in diving and picking up the spawn.

Formerly any person, who succeeded in killing one of these birds, was allowed, as a reward, the privilege of fishing in the close season; but, for a long time back, this has been lost sight of.

Plantations.—There are several thriving plantations of firs on the hilly parts of the districts of Aberlour, Allachie, and Carron, with some elm and ash trees nearer the river, the banks of which are, in many parts, covered with birch of a remarkable size.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

This parish can boast of no remarkable antiquities.

Land-owners.—It belongs to four proprietors, Lord Fife; James William Grant, Esq. of Wester Elchies; Alexander Grant, Esq. of Aberlour; and the Earl of Seafield. Lord Fife is the greatest land-owner, and the Earl of Seafield the least, the latter possessing only the small property of Mudhouse. Aberlour is the only family seat in the parish.

Parochial Registers.—A parochial register has been regularly kept since the year 1707, down to the present time, with the exception of some trifling blanks during the troublesome period of 1745. A registration of marriages, births, and deaths was uniformly made at the commencement of this period; but that of deaths has been discontinued for the last seventy-six years.

Modern Buildings.—Near the influx of the burn of Aberlour, on the daugh of Allachie, stand the roofless walls of the old church; and about 300 yards farther to the east, on the same plain, is situated the new church, a handsome and commodious building, erected in 1812.

About the same period, Charles Grant, Esq. of Wester Elchies, commenced the building of a village on this plain, embracing all the holm land of the district to the extent of half a mile in length, and erected it into a borough of barony, under the name of Charlestown of Aberlour. This village now contains 250 inhabitants, and has four markets in the course of the year, held respectively on the first Thursday of April, Thursday before the 21st of May, second Thursday of July, and second Thursday of November.

III.—POPULATION.

| | | |
|---|---|------|
| The population of this parish in 1792, was | - | 920 |
| 1801, | - | 815 |
| 1811, | - | 923 |
| 1821, | - | 1063 |
| 1831, | - | 1276 |
| Yearly average of marriages for the last seven years, | - | 8 |
| births, | - | 30 |
| Average number of persons under 20 years of age, | - | 614 |

Several individuals are in the enjoyment of good health at the age of 80 and 85, and two or three have attained the advanced age of 90.

Character and Habits of the People.—The English language is universally spoken in the parish, and a very few families and servants, originally from Highland districts, are capable of using the Gaelic language. The people are decidedly sober, and in-

dustrious in their habits, neat and cleanly in their persons, and temperate in their diet, which, although animal food is occasionally used in the poorest families, principally consists, among the labouring classes, of milk and vegetable fare of their own produce. They are in general contented and comfortable in their circumstances. Nor are they behind their neighbours, in point of shrewdness and intelligence. They are, in general, very well informed according to their station in life, and the tone of their minds may certainly be considered as moral and religious. A considerable change for the better in these respects is understood to have taken place since the suppression of smuggling,—a case of which is now scarcely ever heard of within the bounds of the parish.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

The cultivated parts of the parish, which may be about one-half of its whole extent, and a great proportion of which has been improved within the last twelve years, are divided into farms, of from L. 10 to L. 100 of yearly rent, generally under leases of nineteen years' duration. Some of the farms are inclosed by good stone fences, and the farm-buildings are in general substantial and commodious.

Rent of Land.—The average rent per acre may be reckoned at L. 1, 5s., inclusive of permanent pasture susceptible of cultivation, the extent of which may be again estimated at about one-twentieth part of what is under the plough. Some moors, too, in the centre of the parish may be under cultivation in the course of years.

The soil, with due culture, is in general capable of raising all sorts of grain, barley, oats, wheat, pease, &c.; and it is remarked, that the average weight of barley here is from a pound and a-half to two pounds more per bushel than in the heavier soils of the neighbouring parishes Mortlach and Glass.

All the farmers raise black-cattle of the Morayshire breed, and those near the hills keep a flock of sheep of the hardy black-faced kind; but, on the whole, grain is the staple commodity the farmer has to depend on.

Prices.—Within the last two years, the price of oats has varied from 16s. to L. 1, 2s. per quarter; barley from L. 1, 1s. to L. 1, 4s.

Rate of Wages.—The rate of wages to farm-servants may be stated as follows: for a first or principal man, L. 6 per half year; a ploughman, L. 4, 10s.; and maid-servants from L. 1, 10s. to L. 2, all inclusive of lodging and maintenance. Tradesmen's wages are moderate, mason and carpenters' work being furnished by es-

timate,—which system is understood to have lowered the expense to less than one-half, within the last twelve years.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Means of Communication.—The parish has enjoyed the advantage of a sub-post-office to Mortlach, ever since the year 1803 ; and in addition to this, a first-office was established, some years ago, at Craig Ellachie, which now communicates daily with a principal office at Ballindalloch through Aberlour, and also with the two sub-offices of Dufftown and Rothies. The means of communication have been greatly improved by a toll-road, which was made in 1817, and runs through the whole extent of the parish, from the bridge of Fiddich to the hill of Carron on the borders of Inveraven. Another very useful road was made last season, in the south, or Glenrinnies part of the parish, running through that vale from Dufftown in Mortlach to Glenlivat and Tomintoul.

Ecclesiastical State.—It has been formerly stated, that a new parish church was erected in the year 1812. This contains 700 sittings, all free. It is, at present, in good repair, and is conveniently situate for the attendance of the greater part of the parish,—being, with the exception of Glenrinnies, not more than three miles and a-half distant from its farthest extremity in an east and south direction, and little more than four from the farthest habitation on the west, or Inveraven side.

The whole population belong to the Established Church, with the exception of a few Seceders and Independents, who likewise attend divine service occasionally in the church.

The manse is a very old building. It was, many years ago, pronounced, by decret of presbytery, to be insufficient ; and having sustained considerable damage by the flood in 1829, which reduced it to an entirely ruinous condition, the incumbent was allowed, in lieu of a new manse, an annuity for seven years from that date.

A great part of the glebe land was carried off bare to the channel, and in order to protect the remaining part, and preserve its former boundaries, two bulwarks were erected by the heritors at a great expense in 1830 ; one on the Spey, about 500 yards above the glebe land, and the other on the burn of Aberlour, where it forms the boundary of the glebe, and near its junction with the Spey. Although that part of the field that was injured is entirely useless in the meantime, yet, it is hoped that the stagnant water received periodically in the excavated parts behind the bulwarks,

from the repeated risings of the Spey, will, by leaving successive layers of alluvial deposit, produce a tolerable soil in the course of time.

The stipend is $14\frac{1}{2}$ chalders of grain, one-half barley, and one-half oatmeal, with L. 8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements.

There is a missionary establishment in the valley of Glenrinnies, for the accommodation of that remote part which belongs to Aberlour, as well as the remainder of the vale appertaining to Mortlach. There is a neat and commodious chapel at this station, and the minister, who is an ordained clergyman of the Church of Scotland, receives L. 60 per annum from the Royal Bounty, and is provided by the heritors with a manse, glebe, and some other little accommodations. He performs every parochial duty in his district, with the exception of administering the sacrament. There are about 460 communicants yearly at the church, inclusive of this district. Divine service is usually very well attended, both at the church and the missionary station of Glenrinnies.

Education.—There is one parochial school and a female school in Charlestown for the accommodation of the main part of the parish,—the district of Glenrinnies being supplied by an Assembly school in that place. The branches of education taught in the parish school are, Latin, geography, arithmetic and elementary mathematics, writing, English grammar, and English reading, with the principles of Christian knowledge.

At the female school, sewing, knitting, and English reading are taught; and English reading, arithmetic and writing, being the branches most required in the country, are taught in the Assembly's school of Glenrinnies.

The salary of the parish schoolmaster is the maximum, L. 34, 4s. $4\frac{1}{2}$ d. and the school fees average from L. 10 to L. 15 per annum.

The schoolmistress has a free house, a garden, and a small croft of land, from the proprietor, Mr Grant of Elchies, which, along with the school fees and the proceeds of her own industry in dress-making, form her only dependence.

The parochial schoolmaster has the legal accommodations, but, in common with most of his brethren, finding these insufficient, he has lately built a small addition to his dwelling-house at his own expense, in the hopes, that, when farther accommodation shall have been granted to the schoolmasters in general, he may be reimbursed for his outlay. The school fees are very moderate, and

the people in general appear sensible of the benefits of education, the poorest of the parish contriving to keep their children some time, more or less, at school,—in which and similar cases, education is given gratis.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The average number of the poor upon the roll may be stated at 30, who receive pecuniary assistance now and then, according to their respective necessities, and as far as the funds will admit. The weekly collections at the church here average about 7s., and at the chapel of Glenrinnies about 2s., one-third of which last falls to Aberlour, and, in consequence, the poor of Glenrinnies have an equal claim with the rest of the parish upon the session funds. Besides the weekly collections, the poor derive assistance from a mortification of $3\frac{1}{2}$ bolls of meal, payable yearly, off a small farm belonging to the Earl of Fife. The sums thus realized from time to time, along with the interest on two bequeathments of 100 merks each, as also that arising from small sums occasionally put to interest in times of plenty, and penalties for immoralities, form a supply scarcely adequate to meet the wants of the poor, even without taking into account the burden of two pauper lunatics, who, though mainly supported by the heritors, have, for many years, been receiving aid from the funds. Application is seldom made for relief, without necessity on the part of the applicant; but, on the other hand, it frequently happens that unobtrusive individuals of delicate feelings are disposed to suffer considerable destitution, before making their case known; but the members of session endeavour, as far as in their power, to find out such cases, and give assistance in a manner the least offensive.

Distillery.—In concluding this account of parochial economy, it may be stated, that there is one whisky distillery, on a large scale, in the parish, situated at Aberlour, which is considered an accommodation to the surrounding farmers, in affording a ready and convenient market for their barley. There are two or three houses of entertainment in the parish, for which spirit licenses are annually granted, besides two principal *inns*, namely, the New Inn, situated in Charlestown, and the Cottage Inn, only separated from the village by the burn of Aberlour.

Fuel.—In the southern and western parts of the parish, there is a good and convenient supply of peat for fuel, but the village and parts to the eastward are farther removed from the moss. In

the village, a load of peats costs from 1s. 6d. to 2s. 3d. according to the quality.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

On comparing the present state of the parish with that exhibited at the termination of the last century, it appears, that a great addition has been made to its cultivated parts, as well as a great improvement in the method of culture adopted. These, in addition to the erection of the village of Charlestown, and the increased facility of communication by means of the toll-road formerly mentioned, form the most striking variations between the state of the parish at that time and its present state.

The bridge of Craig Ellachie over the Spey, near the eastern extremity of the parish, likewise adds most materially to the accommodation of the whole country south of that river, by opening up a communication to the Elgin markets, and to Garmouth, the chief grain market for this quarter; from which last place too, this part of the country is most conveniently supplied with coals. This bridge was erected in the year 1815, at an expense of L. 8000, raised partly by subscription, and partly by voluntary assessment, along with L. 4000 from Government; and in consequence there never was any pontage exacted. It consists of a single metal arch upwards of 160 feet in span, resting, on the north or Knockando side, on a solid rock, which gives name to the bridge, and on a strong pillar of mason work built on piles, on the east or Aberlour side.

In the Knockando approach, the road was cut in the solid rock to the height of 70 feet in the immediate vicinity of the bridge, and upwards of 100 yards in length. Besides its advantage to the country, which is universally acknowledged to be very great, the appearance of the bridge, along with the majestic perpendicular rock frowning over its western approach, is very grand and imposing—adding greatly to the effect of the surrounding beautiful and picturesque scenery.—It is frequently visited by strangers as an object of curiosity.

With respect to the improvements, of which the parish may be still considered susceptible, the chief regards the communication between its main body and the district of Glenrinnes. A road on this line would be highly beneficial to every part of the parish, by increasing the facility of driving limestone from Glenrinnes, and peat fuel from the foot of Benrinnes, to the district of Edinville, and those parts in the vicinity of the Spey, and also by affording

the farmers of Glenrinnnes a more direct communication to a market for their grain. The present substitute for a road is a rough cart track, running through the district of Edinvillie and Glackharnis, almost impassable, especially after the severe winter floods; but such is the necessity of having a road on this line, that much expense has been already laid out upon it, by temporary repairs yearly, partly by allocation of small sums from the road funds, and partly by private subscription.

It is in contemplation, however, to make a road near the present track, to communicate with the Aberlour toll-road, a little to the west of the manse at one of its extremities, and to join, at its other extremity, the road that has lately been made in Glenrinnnes; as also another branch to run from Edinvillie towards the Carron district, with the view of accommodating the western parts of the parish. This road is anticipated with pleasure as a very great improvement.

The farmers of this parish are spirited according to their means, and some have employed a large capital to good account.

The system of husbandry adopted is much the same as that pursued in other agricultural districts. Some years ago, the Highland Society gave premiums for the curing of butter, to a district embracing this and five other neighbouring parishes, and the first and second of four prizes were adjudged to Aberlour. The patriotic and praiseworthy exertions of this national society, in the distribution of prizes for improvements in husbandry, certainly appear to be attended with those beneficial effects at which they aim: and it is to be hoped, that another competition, lately announced for this quarter, will be met by the good people with that emulation which the society has already, in a great measure, inspired.

July 1836.

PARISH OF INVERAVEN.

PRESBYTERY OF ABERLOUR, SYNOD OF MORAY.

THE REV. WILLIAM ASHER, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name, Extent, and Boundaries.—THIS parish takes its name from the situation of its church, which stands on the south bank of the Spey, about a mile below the junction of the Aven with that river. Stretching back into the Grampians towards the sources of the Don for about 20 miles, with a breadth varying from $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 8 or 9, and lying partly in the county of Moray, but chiefly in the county of Banff,—it is bounded on the north by the parish of Knockando; on the west by Cromdale and Kirkmichael; on the south by Strathdon, and that part of Tarland which is attached thereto *quoad sacra*; and on the east by Glenbucket, Ca-brach, Mortlach, and Aberlour,—with masses of lofty mountains intervening betwixt it and all these parishes except Knockando, in the direction of which the Spey forms the boundary.

Topographical Appearances.—Consisting, in by much the larger proportion, of moorland and mountain, this extensive parish has upon the whole a bleak and barren appearance, particularly when entering the lower end of the parish (by the toll-road) from the east; but along the rivers, near the banks of which both the arable land and natural wood chiefly lie, the prospect is in general pleasing, and occasionally highly picturesque and attractive. About three miles back from, and nearly parallel to, the Spey, Cairnocay, a lofty range of mountains extending from Benrinnes to the Aven, divides the lower part, or what may be termed Inveraven proper, from Glenlivet, a country well known to most Scotchmen by name, —while some six or eight miles further on, Glenlivet is itself divided into nearly equal parts by the Boche, a high hill rising up in the centre of the valley, flanked on either hand by projecting masses of the neighbouring mountains. These three districts, thus divided by natural boundaries, are pretty equal in point of extent, and have an average population of about 900. The one

above the Bochle, though the flattest part of the parish, is called the Braes of Glenlivet; below it, the river, or water of Livet, as it is generally termed, runs through the centre of the valley, and then, though comprehending a more level district, called Morange, diverging from the east bank of the river, the country has much more of the characteristics of the true highland glen. In the lower or parish church district, the Aven, which enters the parish from the south-west, and skirts Glenlivet for about a couple of miles, flows on through a narrow strath or glen to the Spey, from which the ascent is not so rapid, there being to the north of Cairnocay a considerable breadth of country sloping gradually to the mountain as well as to the river.

Benrinnes, which, though much lower than some others, is always classed among the highest mountains of Scotland, is situated on the eastern or Aberlour boundary, towering to the height of 2763.5 feet (according to the late Government survey) above low mater-mark. This mountain, when seen from Inveraven proper, has rather a tame and heavy appearance, but its aspect from Glenlivet is both imposing and majestic,—while from the top, (where there is a small bason in the rock usually filled with water, and a cave supposed to have been the hiding-place of James Grant of Carron, better known by the name of James au Tuim, or James of the hill,) the prospect is very extensive, stretching, it is said, from Caithness to the county of Dumbarton. The other mountains, both within and bounding the parish, are all of considerable altitude, but they present little either in conformation or appearance particularly deserving of notice. They consist chiefly of flat unbroken ranges running in a southern and western direction.

Climate, Diseases, &c.—The climate is decidedly different in each of the three districts into which nature has divided the parish,—the coldest, which is that of the Braes of Glenlivet, being perhaps as much inferior to the climate on the river sides, in the parish church district, as the latter is inferior to the climate of the sea coast. Snow, the first indications of which usually manifest themselves on the top of Benrinnes, not unfrequently lies in Inveraven proper, as well as in the upper districts to a great depth, interrupting field operations, and sometimes shutting up the communication, when, at the distance of ten or fifteen miles, not a vestige of hoary winter is to be seen; still the climate is abundantly healthy, and such as to serve in ordinary seasons for bringing to maturity the fruits commonly produced in the gardens on

the coast. Vegetation, though commencing late, advances rapidly when stimulated by summer heat, heightened by the reflection from the mountains, and in favourable years, of which for the last thirteen there has been little or no interruption, the grain crops produced even in the Braes of Glenlivet might not unfrequently compete, both in respect of quantity and quality, with the produce of the low districts of Banff and Moray. In the summer months, water spouts sometimes fall, and thunder storms are very common. No disease seems to be peculiar to the parish. Frequent cases of cancer have occurred of late, and consumption is very common; but the people are in general both healthy and hardy.

Hydrography.—It is not a little singular that, in so wide and mountainous a parish, there is no lake, with the exception of a very small one near the Kirkmichael boundary, and within a short distance of the Aven, supposed to have been formed by that river when running on a higher elevation than at present, which people in the neighbourhood describe as bottomless, and as containing “a ploughman, his plough, and a yoke of oxen.” The linn of Livet, which was the only waterfall in the parish, was destroyed some years ago, with the view of affording free course to the few salmon that enter that stream. Springs are numerous; some of them very copious, and almost all affording water of excellent quality, though none are said to be medicinal. The most remarkable is one at Chapelton of Kilmaichlie, in the immediate neighbourhood of the outlines of the old chapel, mentioned in the former report, which is cased with stones, indicating that though now visited only as an object of curiosity, it was possibly in repute in times of old, for common or medicinal purposes. Another spring, close by, is also cased at the mouth, though only recently, and in imitation of the former.—Of rivers in the parish, the most important is the Spey, which sweeps the parish on the north-west for about seven miles, and is said to discharge as much water as any river in Scotland, though, from the rapidity with which it flows, smaller in appearance than some others. The Aven, the largest of the Spey’s tributaries, though, except in floods, which usually commence twelve or more hours earlier, producing but little perceptible increase of its waters,—takes its rise from a loch of the same name lying at the foot of the mountains of Benmacdui, Benna-maur, and Cairngorrum, and after flowing through the parish of Kirkmichael, for thirty or thirty-five miles, enters this parish, about seven miles from its mouth. At Drumin, it receives the Livet, swollen into a considerable

river by the tributary streams of Crombie and Tervie, the former, which is the drain of the lowest side of the country, called the Braes of Glenlivet, falling into it at Tombia, and the latter that of Morange and the country bordering on Glenrinnies, at Tom-breakachie. Of the smaller streams, the most considerable are Kymah, Aldregnie, Altachoylachan, and Tommore. The first, Kymah, takes its rise in the mountains bounding the parish to the south-east, and is larger at the junction than the Livet, which has also its source in these mountains. Aldregnie falls into the Livet at the east side of the Bochle. Altachoylachan is tributary to the Tervie and Tommore, the chief outlet of the waters north of Cairn-o-cay. The Spey is celebrated for the value of its salmon fisheries and the quality of the fish, and also for the quantity of fir timber annually floated on it from the forests of Abernethy and Rothiemurchus; and the Aven for its uncommon transparency, which makes it dangerous for strangers to attempt fording, being often many feet deep where it scarcely appears to be two, and hence the doggerel lines.

“ The water of Aven so fair and clear,
Would deceive a man of 100 year.”

Some twenty or thirty years ago, salmon were very abundant, both in the Aven and the Spey; and in the latter, fish were frequently caught in the parish upwards of thirty pounds weight; but now, owing to the close fishing at and towards the mouth of the river, by means of nets and cruives, few escape, and those reaching this are seldom to be met with above twenty pounds weight. Grilse, salmon or white trout, finnock, trout, par, stickleback, pike, flounders, eels, and large fresh water muscles, in which pearls of some value are sometimes to be found, are all numerous in the Spey, and, with the exception of pike and muscles, are also to be found in the Aven, which, with its tributaries, is much superior to the Spey for trout, and, accordingly, except for grilse and salmon, held in higher repute by the angler. The salmon fishings on the Spey for some miles from its mouth, of which, since the death of the late much lamented Duke of Gordon, his Grace the Duke of Richmond is proprietor, yield a rent of from L. 8000 to L. 10,000 a-year. In the intermediate parishes, the proprietors either let them for trifling rents, or protect and retain them for their own use; but in this parish and farther up, they are considered of little or of no value.

Geology and Mineralogy—The rocks throughout this parish are supposed to be wholly of primitive formation, the most prevalent

being gneiss. A vein of red granite running towards the Spey, and very suitable for building purposes, appears on the north side of Benrinnes. Small portions of asbestos have also been found on that mountain, and rock crystals occasionally in the boulder stones of the Aven. But the most interesting feature in the geology of this parish is the limestone of Glenlivet, which is considered by geologists as imbedded in the gneiss, and not as constituting or representing a separate formation, such as mountain limestone or the like. It is of much superior quality to the secondary rock, which is quarried as limestone and used for agricultural purposes in the neighbourhood of Elgin and Forres, being of the same description as that of Mortlach and Duthil. None has been discovered in the parish north of Cairnocay, but throughout Glenlivet it may be found almost in every burn, and under every field. No regular manufacture of lime, however, as at the great works of Ardonald in Cairnie, and at Dufftown in the neighbouring parish of Mortlach, has yet been commenced in that quarter. Some of the tenants dig for themselves, but the principal quarries are given in charge to persons who pay no rent, but who are taken bound to sell the stones at prices proportioned to the depth of *tir*, or superincumbent soil, ranging from $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. the ten stone weight, which is computed to yield one full of the old corn firlo, or thirty-two pints of lime shells. Though there is a trifling demand from the low end of Cromdale and the upper end of Knockando, as well as from Inveraven proper, the chief market for the quarried rock is found at home. Hence, lime kilns are to be seen on almost every farm in Glenlivet, for which and for family purposes, no small portion of time is taken up in providing peat fuel. Lime is got in this way at less nominal expense, but both manual and animal labour on the farms is in consequence much increased, and the attention of the farmer too much divested from the cultivation of his farm and the care of his stock, to the production of a stimulant, which it would be much to his advantage to procure in a manufactured state. Some years ago, a kiln was put in operation on the Ballindalloch estate, in the immediate neighbourhood of an inexhaustible supply of peat near the top of Cairnocay, to which the limestone was driven up the hill from Morange in Glenlivet, but it was soon given up,—it having been found that peat fuel is unadapted for the manufacture of lime on a large scale, and that a supply could more conveniently be procured from the works at Dufftown in Mortlach, where it is always to be had for about nine months of the year.

Soil.—The soil of the parish, though occasionally thin and moory, may, on the whole, be said to be good. At Tomalivan, not far from the marl-pit mentioned in the former report, is a bank of land where the loam is upwards of three feet deep, said not to be inferior to any land in Banffshire; while on mains of Morange, and some of the neighbouring farms, it is a strong rich clay, extremely productive in favourable seasons. In Inveraven proper, the loam is more gravelly than in Glenlivet; but still, as well as the haugh land along the sides of the rivers, of a kindly nature, and in general yielding good crops; but a little to the east of the Aven, immediately south of the toll-road, the sub-soil is so retentive, that all the efforts of the late and present proprietor, which have not been few, have hitherto been unable to render productive such parts of the district as have been brought into cultivation. The new system of lineal drains at short distances, as yet scarcely known in this quarter, has lately been tried on one of the fields, which, it is hoped, will be attended with better success, and so give encouragement to the cultivation and farther improvement of a district no less offensive to the eye of the traveller than it is unproductive in itself, and unprofitable both to the proprietor and other occupants.

Zoology.—This parish abounds in game. Partridges, moorfowl, and common hares are very numerous, and white hares by no means uncommon. Ptarmigan are to be met with on the mountains and in Inveraven proper, where there is also black game. An attempt has been made, but not as yet apparently with much success, to introduce pheasants. Roe are numerous about Ballindalloch and in the lower part of the parish, while to the upper districts, red deer occasionally stray from the forest of Glenfiddich, which, however, soon find their way back, or pay the forfeit of their temerity with their lives. Foxes, weasels, and polecats are common. The first are of a large size, and very destructive, as well as dogs, to the lambs on the hills. Formerly, the eagle seems to have bred near the top of Benrinnes, where the remains of a nest are still to be seen; but this prince of the feathered tribe has long since deserted the lower district, and is only to be seen in the upper districts of the parish when occasionally extending his flight beyond his favourite domains, of which the lofty Ben-macdui and far-famed Cairngorum are the almost impregnable citadels. Rooks with pure white wings have been observed, and in the near neighbourhood (but upon the opposite side of the Spey, in that part of the Ballindalloch estate which lies in the parish of Knockando,) a covey of red grouse were seen, some years ago,

three of them with white wings, of which a male and female were shot, that presented a very singular appearance. Previous to the great flood of 1829, which proved so destructive there and throughout this parish, chaffinches and house-sparrows were very numerous about Ballindalloch; but of the former, though almost as numerous as ever, few were to be seen for a year after, and not a single individual of the latter has yet made its appearance.

Wood and Plantations.—Inveraven proper is studded in almost all directions with plantations, which, with the natural wood, consisting chiefly of birch, oak, and mountain-ash, lining the banks of the Spey and the Aven, afford shelter, and are very ornamental; but with the exception of some stunted birches and alders, chiefly in the valley of the Livet, and some fruit, forest, and ornamental trees in the gardens and around the residences of some of the principal inhabitants, Glenlivet, including Morange and the Braes, is utterly destitute of wood. A clump of venerable firs, one of them measuring eleven feet in circumference at eleven feet from the ground, and supposed to contain 212 cubic feet of timber, heightens the natural beauty of the ancient place of Kilmaichlie, which, with the old widow lady who inhabited it, and some of her domestics, is so interestingly described in the 87th No. of the *Lounger* by the graphic pen of the Man of Feeling. At Ballindalloch, and almost so near as to cast their shadows on the house, stand two splendid specimens of spruce fir, one measuring in circumference fifteen feet at the base, and nine feet nine inches at six feet from the ground, and the other, eleven and a-half feet at the base, and nine feet at six feet from the ground, both apparently healthy, and perfectly free from the aphids, to which other three of similar dimensions, which stood close by, fell martyrs some years ago. On the lawn, there are also to be seen a number of very fine old hard wood trees, among which is an ash with thirty-five feet of clear stem, measuring in circumference fourteen feet at the base, and nine feet at sixteen feet from the ground; and to the west of the house, within a few yards of the Aven, a magnificent Scotch fir, measuring ten feet in circumference at twelve feet from the ground. A considerable quantity of Scotch fir is nearly full grown on both sides of the Aven, which afford roofing, deals, planks, &c. for country purposes,—while the younger plantations, both of hard wood and larch, and Scotch fir, are of great promise, and such as to give every encouragement to their further extension. Some of the foreign species of pine, such as *Pinus cembra*, *Pinus maritima*,

&c. raised from seed procured from abroad, have been introduced into the moor plantations on the Ballindalloch estate, which are also doing well. The whole wood on that property within the parish may be estimated at from 1100 to 1200 acres, of which 800 are planted, and from 300 to 400 natural. The only other plantation in the parish is a thriving one, also of Scotch fir and larch, on the small estate of Colquhich.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Historical Events.—The battle of Altachoylachan or Glenlivet, the most important historical event connected with this parish, has already been so frequently described in other publications, as to require but a very cursory notice in this place.* This battle, in which the Earl of Huntly defeated the Marquis of Argyle, was fought on the 4th of October 1594, upon an inclined plain near the Glenrinnnes border of the parish, terminating in a flat ridge, which descends rapidly to the burn of Altachoylachan, and flanked on the south by a somewhat precipitous shoulder of the contiguous mountain. Here, on ground equally adapted for withstanding his opponent, and for affording a safe retreat in the event of defeat, Argyle, who, it is allowed on all hands, had numbers on his side, waited the attack. His right, commanded by Sir John M'Lean, occupied the shoulder of the mountain, above alluded to, and fought manfully—but treachery in the centre and left powerfully aided his opponent, who had also the advantage of some pieces of artillery. Besides M'Neil of Barra, Campbell of Lochnell, Argyle's nearest heir, and his brother, to whom some also add Sir John M'Lean, about 500 were slain on the side of Argyle. On Huntly's, Sir Patrick Gordon of Auchindown, Gordon of Gight, and twelve others were killed, and a much greater number wounded, among whom was the Earl of Errol. About three-quarters of a mile from the scene of action, a small knoll on the east bank of the stream Coultalt, commonly called Lord Auchindown's cairn, two-thirds of it swept away by the flood of 1829, marks the place where Sir P. Gordon of Auchindown is supposed to have died.

Somewhat more than a century subsequent to this battle, this and the adjoining parishes found a troublesome neighbour in James Grant, commonly called James an Tuim, as may be seen by reference to the History of the Troubles and Memorable Transactions in Scotland in the Reign of Charles I., published by John

* See Sir R. Gordon's History of the Gordons, also Shaw's History of Moray, and Brown's History of Highlands.

Spalding, commissary clerk of Aberdeen, who, among other particulars, gives an account of the treacherous abduction by this barbarian, of the young laird of Ballindalloch, during what he expected to be a friendly meeting,—whom he confined at Bauds, in the parish of Speymouth, exposed to the greatest hardships, for the space of twenty-one days; whence he at length escaped, in the absence of James an Tuim, by having gained over Leonard Leslie, one of his guards, with whom he conversed in Latin. *

Eminent Men.—Several of the lairds of Ballindalloch, in succession, followed the military profession, and almost all of them rose to the rank of field officers. Colonel William Grant of Ballindalloch raised one of the five companies that constituted the Black Watch, afterwards embodied into the 42d Regiment. But the most eminent was General James Grant of Ballindalloch, who succeeded to the estate on the death of his nephew, Major William Grant, in 1770. General Grant passed the greater part of his life in active service. He defeated Count D'Estaing, with an inferior force, conquered St Lucia in 1779, and was for many years Governor of Florida. At the time of his death, which happened at Ballindalloch in 1806, he was Colonel of the 11th Foot, and Governor of Stirling Castle. In terms of instructions left by himself, his remains were interred in the corner of a field on the Mains farm, (a favourite spot with him in his lifetime, which commands a view of the valley of the Spey, and of the barony of Ballindalloch,) where a mausoleum has been erected by his successor, terminating in a handsome pillar, in which is inserted a marble slab, bearing a Latin inscription descriptive of his rank and appointments, as well as of the time of his birth and death. The sloping ground to the north and west of this field is now covered with a thriving plantation, which adds not a little to its natural beauty.

* The effects of James' treachery and cruelty, it would appear, were not confined to the lower district of the parish and its inhabitants. Tradition relates, that while in confinement in Edinburgh Castle, observing Grant of Tomnavoulen pass one day, he called out, what news from Speyside? None very particular, rejoined his acquaintance, the best is, that the country is rid of you. Perhaps we shall meet again, replied James. Tomnavoulen passed on, and James was left for the time to his meditations in jail, but in the end made his word good. Having escaped by means of ropes, conveyed to him by his wife, in a cask supposed to contain butter, he called on his return to Speyside, at the house of Tomnavoulen in an evening, where he was invited to pass the night. The invitation being declined, Tomnavoulen and his son were asked in return to accompany him a little on his way. All three set out in company, apparently on the most friendly terms; but they had not gone far, when the barbarian drew his sword, slew both the father and son, and having cut off their heads, wrapped them in a corner of his plaid, returned to Tomnavoulen, threw them reeking with blood into the lap of Mrs Grant, and then bade her good night.

The father of Sir James M'Gregor, Bart. who has so long and so ably presided over the medical department of the British Army, held the farm of Lynebeg in Glenlivet, and it is said that Sir James himself was born there.

Land-owners.—Within the last two centuries, the greater part if not the whole property of this parish seems to have gone into new hands. About 200 years ago, the Grants were proprietors of Blairfindy; the Stewarts, of Drumin and Kilmaichlie; and a family of the name of Nairn, of Moranges,—while a different branch of the Grants, commonly called the Craig-Achrochcan Grants, held Ballindalloch. Now the whole parish belongs to two large and one small heritor. All the Gordon estate in this parish, which comprehends the whole country of Glenlivet, with the exception of that part called Morange, having with Glenfiddich, &c. in Mortlach and Kinrara in Badenoch, been excambed for the estate of Durris in Kincardineshire, the Duchess-Dowager of Richmond, on the death of her brother, George last Duke of Gordon succeeded to these estates, as heiress of entail to the Earl of Peterborough, and so became principal heritor of this parish. George M'Pherson Grant, Esq. who sat in Parliament for the county of Sutherland, for about seventeen years previous to 1826, is proprietor of Ballindalloch, Kilmaichlie, and Morange; and James William Grant, of Wester Elchies, Esq. who holds a high appointment in the East Indies, is proprietor of Colquoich, a single farm in the lower extremity of the parish.

The real and valued rents of these heritors stand thus :

| | <i>Real.</i> | <i>Valued.</i> |
|--|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Duchess of Richmond, - - - | L. 2815 | L. 2190 Scotch. |
| Mr M'Pherson Grant, exclusive of what he occupies himself, - - - | 2170 | 1675 |
| Mr Grant of Elchies, about - - - | 70 | 109 |
| Total, | <hr/> L. 5055 Ster. | <hr/> L. 3965 Scotch. |

Parochial Registers.—There are three volumes of parish registers, the oldest commencing 1630; but all have been imperfectly kept. Few of the Roman Catholics seem to have inserted their children's births at any time; and now, scarcely any; and until of late the Protestants were too negligent in recording theirs. Since 1640, no notice appears to be taken of burials.

Antiquities.—Rude stone coffins have occasionally been discovered in the parish, under cairns removed to make way for the plough; and in trenching a wood on the farm of Kilmaichlie, the labourers found some old arms and coins, the former so corroded

as to be unworthy of preservation, the latter said to have been of the size of half-crowns, but which, having been privately sold to a silversmith, who has left the country, cannot now be particularly described. Numerous traces of Druidical temples are to be found, succeeded by almost an equal number of chapels and Christian places of worship, of which there were one at Phona, at Nevie, Deskie, and Chapelton of Kilmaichlie; but no traces now remain of any of them except the latter, the outlines of which are still visible, with some appearances of graves close by. The burial ground of Downan is still used, and occasionally also that of Buitterlach; in the near neighbourhood of which, there is a very large cairn, supposed to be raised over the grave of a person of note. A small spot, in a field on the farm of Haughs of Kilmaichlie, appears clearly to have been also a place of sepulture. In order to protect it from the sacrilegious invasion of the plough, the present occupant of the farm has, with proper taste and feeling, caused it to be planted. At Blairfindy, are to be seen the ruins of a hunting seat of the Earls of Huntly; and at Drumin, on a high promontory near the confluence of the Livet with the Aven, stands part of the old castle of Drumin, now affording shelter only to jackdaws and pigeons. The wall, which is of great height and thickness, is pretty entire on the east and north, and half of the west side; but the other half of the west and the whole south wall are gone, and the stability of a considerable part of what remains of the structure seems to rest on a single stone of a few inches in diameter, placed in a curious position on its edge, and not on what builders call the bed.

The house of Ballindalloch, the residence of the proprietor, and, it is said, one of the most perfect specimens extant of the old Scottish castle, may also be classed among the antiquities of the parish. This large structure consists of a square building flanked by three circular towers,—the centre one, which is the largest, containing the ancient door and turnpike stair, surmounted by a square watch-tower termed the “Cape House,” with a window to each of the four sides, and an aperture in the wall immediately above the entrance, so as to admit of boiling lead or other missiles being thrown down, in the event of the enemy making good his approach. Over the chimney, in one of the rooms, is carved 1546. The Cape House seems to have been added by Patrick Grant in 1602, and about the beginning of last century a further addition was made of two large and commodious wings. This mas-

sy and irregular-looking structure is situated a little to the east of the Aven, and about half-a-mile from its confluence with the Spey, upon a low flat haugh of a triangular shape richly wooded, having Cairnocay in the distance on the south, the Aven, clear as crystal, and lined with wood, on the west, the Spey hemmed in by mountains on the north, and on the east a magnificent bark (embracing Craig-Achrochan) covered with wood of many varieties, producing altogether a scene not often to be surpassed even in the Highlands. A little farther up the river, upon the edge of the high ground, and near a small stream called the Castle stripe, are to be seen the traces of a large building said to have been the old castle or mansion-house of Ballindalloch, where tradition says it would have still stood, had not the rebuilding been prevented by unseen agency,—the part built in the day-time having been always thrown down through the night: at length a voice was heard saying, “build in the Cow Haugh, and you shall meet with no interruption.” The recommendation was followed, and the house of Ballindalloch consequently raised in its present situation, where it has long stood unassailed by the invisible adversary of its predecessor, but exposed by times to a real and little less formidable one, the Aven. The most recent as well as the most destructive visit it received from this neighbour, happened at the great flood of 1829.*

III.—POPULATION.

| | |
|---|------|
| In 1755 the population amounted to | 2464 |
| 1766, | 2200 |
| 1779, | 2244 |
| 1801, males 1018, females 1242, together, | 2260 |

* To remedy the desolation occasioned at Ballindalloch by this flood, the aspect of which was truly appalling, appeared almost a hopeless task; nevertheless the attempt was made without delay, and with entire success, the place having some years ago assumed its wonted attractive appearance, and even become, in the opinion of many, prettier than before. Some old trees are indeed wanting, and a field or two may be deteriorated or circumscribed; still other trees have been planted, pits have been filled up, roots and stumps of trees and gravel cleared, the garden, which till then was close to the house, moved to a suitable distance, the lawn levelled, trenched, and laid out anew; and in addition to all this, and at an expense little less than that of all the other operations together, an embankment has been raised along the Aven, from its junction with the Spey to the rocks at the upper end of the lawn, a distance of about 1500 yards, faced with stones *keyed*, that is, neatly set in after the end or edge to the level of the field, and then raised three or four feet with earth, partly turfed, and partly made green by grass grown from the seed. Great attention is bestowed, after floods, in examining this beautiful and substantial embankment, and in repairing breaches, which seldom, if ever, occur except by the falling of the river to a lower level. For this purpose, baskets made of rough planks or split trees nailed together in the shape of a parallelogram, and filled with large stones, have been of great use. A line of these baskets or *creels*, as they are called, has been found more effectual in opposing the river than any other obstacle hitherto employed; and by their aid, the embankment has, without the smallest apparent diminution of its strength or neatness, been underfounded for a long way, part of it to the depth of nearly six feet, so as to suit the bed of the river, which is deepened here and there by almost every flood.

| | |
|---|------|
| 1821, males 1132, females 1360, together, | 2492 |
| 1831, males 1283, females 1365, together, | 2648 |
| 1836, - - - - - | 2707 |

From the above table it will be seen that the population, which seems to have fallen off for ten years subsequent to Dr Webster's report, has since been gradually increasing,—the most marked increase being within the last few years; in the course of which, the habits of the people have undergone a great change to the better. Previous to the passing of the Act of Parliament, in 1823, for the encouragement of legal distillation in the Highlands of Scotland, the inhabitants of Glenlivet almost without an exception, and many also in the parish church district, were more or less engaged in manufacturing and carrying to market smuggled whisky; but the energetic measures taken by Government for the suppression of smuggling have proved eminently successful here; the male population, instead of prowling over the country in search of a market for their whisky, and being constantly on the watch to elude the eye of officers of excise, are now happily and successfully employed in the cultivation of farms, or in prosecuting handicrafts;—while the females, who were in the habit of spending no small portion of their time, by night as well as by day, in the *bothie*,—a prey to the licentious and immoral,—are now more safely and suitably employed in domestic occupations, or in performing such portions of field labour as fall to the lot of their sex, in the best cultivated and most civilized districts of the country.

There is only one family of independent fortune which lives in the parish, and that only for half the year. Some have large holdings, and most are in easy circumstances for their station in life. Cottars, that is, subtenants who hold houses and kail-yards from the principal tenant, are sometimes thickly set down; but there is no village within the parish. The great bulk of the population are engaged in agricultural pursuits, though there is a due proportion of tradesmen to supply the wants of a rural district. Towards the borders of Kirkmichael and Cromdale, Gaelic is spoken by a few; but it is fast dying out, and the number who either speak or understand it, is becoming smaller every year.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.—Of late, the agriculture of this parish has made rapid progress. Some time ago, black oats, a species of grain now scarcely to be seen, were very common. Then, the aid of lime was rarely sought, and, except at Ballindalloch and a few other places, two-horse ploughs and improved implements of husbandry

were not used ; but now, these and the best system of farming have found their way to all quarters. Not only is the old arable land, in consequence, in general well farmed, but a great extent of waste land has been brought into cultivation. On the Ballindalloch estate, the proprietor is usually at the expense of main drains when required, or allows for land improved L. 5 per acre to the tenant, (who is thus enabled to purchase lime,) on his agreeing to pay interest at 5 per cent. during the lease ; and it is an injudicious improvement which does not in this way turn out advantageous both to landlord and tenant. But, notwithstanding such encouragement, the progress of improvement is much retarded in the parish church district, by the quantities of stones, either partly above or immediately under the surface, which create an expense in the removal, in general much greater than that of trenching. But in Glenlivet, where there are comparatively few stones, the reclaiming of waste land is going on at a rapid rate, being on an average, on the Gordon estate alone, at the rate of 100 acres annually, or about 2000, in the course of the nineteen years' lease. Few of the farmers keep more than two or three horses in the low end of the parish ; but in Glenlivet there are some very extensive farms ;—and on them, the system of cropping and manuring the fields, and the general mode of management, can scarcely be surpassed. The example of these more skilful and opulent tenants being readily imitated in the neighbourhood, the advantage of liming and proper rotation is now universally felt ; and consequently, good farming may be seen throughout the parish, with very few exceptions, not only on every farm but on every croft.

Rent of Land.—The number of acres arable on the Gordon estate, and their average rent, cannot at present be stated. Ballindalloch estate, 2200 acres, average rent about L. 1 per acre. Culquoich do., about 70 acres, average rent about L. 1 per acre.

Oats constitute the staple grain of the country,—the most common being of the early Angus, and sundry varieties. Barley or Scots bear is usually sown after green crop. Very little wheat is raised ; but, even in the low end of Glenlivet, it grows of excellent quality in favourable seasons, and has been known to weigh 55 lb. per bushel.

Stock.—Though none of the Clydesdale breed have found their way to the parish, many of the horses are strong and active, and in general better adapted than those of a larger size, to the nature of the country, the state of the roads, the quality of

their food, and the quantity of work for which they are intended.

The black-cattle of the more wealthy have a considerable dash of West Highland blood, and are in general handsome and well kept. At Ballindalloch, those bred are a cross betwixt Buchan cows and a Highland bull, which produces large fine animals; the three year old stots, when in good driving condition, having of late sold, in the month of July, for three years running, at L. 13 each.

But the black-cattle in general throughout the parish, bred without much attention to the selection either of bulls or cows, and kept in numbers quite disproportioned to the food, which is often unpalatable as well as scanty, are equally destitute of symmetry, of size, and of flesh. With the view of improving this species of stock in this and some neighbouring parishes, the Highland and Agricultural Society now offers premiums; but until the number of cattle is better proportioned to the quantity of the food, and the smaller farmers begin in consequence to feel an improvement in their growth and prices, neither premiums nor any thing else will be found to remedy the evil.

This parish, notwithstanding the range of mountain and extent of waste ground, is not much adapted for sheep-farming. With the exception of a few of English extraction, kept on infield, the sheep are mostly of the black-faced breed, and in general stunted in their growth. Deriving their food chiefly from the hills which are attached to the farms, in general in undivided common, they soon deteriorate, when imported from other quarters; and hence the more judicious and wealthy farmers have, almost without exception, given over keeping this description of stock.

Farm Buildings.—Though there is abundance of room for improvement, both in respect to arrangement and construction in the farm-steadings, yet this parish does not seem to be, in this respect, behind any in the neighbourhood. Many excellent slated dwelling-houses two stories high, are to be seen in Glenlivet with good out-houses. Those at Wester Deskie, which are very extensive, are the admiration of strangers, who in general go to the district, expecting to see little else than *bothies*,—and would attract attention in any part of the country.

Manufactures.—Instead of the smuggling houses, formerly to be found on almost every streamlet, besides one in progress of erection, there are two legal distilleries in Glenlivet, where whisky is produced of the very best quality, and always commanding a

great demand and high price:—one at Aucherachan, about the centre of the glen, as lately enlarged, gives employment to four men, consumes weekly about 160 bushels of malt made from bear, which yields 300 gallons of spirits, and about L. 45 of duties. The other is at upper Drumin, nearer the Aven. The proprietor of the former has also a distillery in Buchan; but he finds, after the most careful and repeated trials, that, with the same hands and materials, he cannot produce a spirit equal to what he obtains in Glenlivet. For the latter, of which he never knows what it is to have a stock, there is a demand to all quarters of the world—its fame as well as quality being equal to that of any smuggled whisky. The chief market, however, is among private families, though even spirit-dealers readily allow 6d. per gallon more than for the whisky distilled in Buchan.

There are in the parish, 5 meal, 2 barley, 1 lint, 1 saw, and 2 carding or wool mills,—but no public kiln, the grain being usually dried on the owner's or a neighbour's kiln. The other manufactures of the parish scarcely deserve notice, being chiefly confined to woollen cloths and plaidings made by the small farmers who keep sheep.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Market-towns.—Tomantoul and Charlestown of Aberlour, both market villages, lie at the distance of about three miles, the former from the upper, and the latter from the lower end of the parish. Grantown and Dufftown are also within reach of many of the inhabitants; but the nearest market-towns of any note are Elgin, to which there are two carriers who go weekly, and Keith. The distance to each of these places from the church is about twenty miles; but a considerable proportion of the supplies of the lower district and of almost the whole of Glenlivet comes from Aberdeen, with which there is constant intercourse, by means of carriers resident in Keith and in the parish, who bring out groceries, cloths, hardwares, &c. &c. partly for private families, and partly to be sold by the merchants of the parish, who are to be found in all quarters, and who take back, in return, cheese, butter, eggs, &c.

Roads.—The parish is crossed, in the lower end, by four miles of toll-road, which is too steep at both extremities, continued from the bridge of Aven by about two miles of Parliamentary road, which is steep also, but always kept in excellent repair. And in Glenlivet, it is crossed by a tolerable county road leading from Dufftown to Tamin-toul. The two principal heritors joined, some years ago, in making

a good road, each carrying it on, upon his own property,—leading by the east side of Aven to Glenlivet and Kirkmichael, which has proved of the utmost advantage in opening up the communication with these places. There are also a pretty good road, some miles up the Aven on the west side, and a couple of similar branch ones from the toll-road towards the Spey; but, with the exception of the approaches to Ballindalloch and the church, there is scarcely another mile of good or even passable road in the parish.

Bridges, &c.—The number of bridges in the parish is but small, compared to its extent and its wants. The old one over the Livet at upper Downan, mentioned in the former report, having been almost destroyed by the flood of 1829, a fine new arch was built, last year, on a more eligible site some hundred yards farther down the stream; and the one at Tomnavoulen, about three miles higher up, which was also so much destroyed by the flood of 1829 as to be of no use except for foot-passengers, has recently undergone repair. On the Ballindalloch portion of the new Avenside road, there is a very handsome arch over the rapid burn of Tommore. The only other bridge of any consequence, is that at Craig-Achrochcan over the Aven, mentioned in the former report. Neither of the two latter received any injury from the great floods of 1829. On the Spey, there is no bridge on either hand, nearer than those at Grantown and Craigellachie, which are about twenty-four miles asunder; nor is there any good ford either in this or the neighbouring parish of Knockando, the best being that at Balnellan, which is very deep. Besides several private, there are two public boats,—one at Blackboat, and the other at Balnellan, immediately above the mouth of the Aven.

No public coaches pass through, or are in any way connected with the parish. One was tried some years ago, from Keith to Grantown, but it did not succeed. The mails are carried daily from Keith and Craigellachie to Bridge of Aven, where there is a regular post-office, called Ballindalloch, with a subsidiary one at Drumin; from whence, there is a runner three times a week to Tomintoul. Letters to Grantown are sent by Keith, where they lie from ten to twelve hours, and are carried upwards of seventy miles, to save the paltry expense of a direct post for fourteen miles.

Ecclesiastical State.—Previous to the Reformation, Inveraven was a parsonage dedicated to St Peter, and the seat of the Chancellor of the diocese, having the vicarages of Knockando and Urquhart

in Inverness-shire dependent on it. The church, which was built in 1806, is in good repair, but very inconveniently situated on the Spey boundaries of the parish. Intended for the accommodation of the Protestants in Glenlivet, as well as the ordinary congregation at the communion, it is seated for 550, and may contain about 600, being only about 150 less than the whole population of the parish church district. A good many seats being in consequence empty, on ordinary occasions, strangers may be led to suppose that the people frequent other places of worship; but this is by no means the case, there being scarcely ten in the lower district who are not in the habit of attending the parish church. There is no chapel of ease in the parish, but a mission on the Royal bounty has been in operation in Glenlivet for upwards of 100 years. At Achbreck, a distance of about nine miles, there is a substantial but rather confined chapel, rebuilt in 1825, at the joint expense of the heritors and the people, where the missionary usually preaches; but once in six weeks, he goes to Achnara, in the Braes, to officiate on Sundays. In the parish church, the seats which are undivided, are all free. In the chapel at Achbreck, a very few seats are let, by such as have more room than their families require; but the great proportion there are free also. In accordance with the practice in the presbytery, the people in the church district and the Protestants in Glenlivet, are catechised twice a year—once in summer, preparatory to the communion, and again in autumn or spring. At the parish church, there are 237 communicants, at Achbreck also 237. Since the grant was obtained, for dispensing the sacrament of the Lord's supper at Achbreck, the Protestants in Glenlivet have given up attending that ordinance in the parish church.

In Glenlivet, where about three-fifths of the people are of the Roman Catholic persuasion, there are two Roman Catholic chapels,—the one at Tombia, pretty far up the glen,—the other at Chapelton, in the Braes of Glenlivet. The former is a large building capable of containing from 800 to 1000 persons,—but only partly finished: the latter contains about 300.

The manse, which was built in 1775, received a handsome and commodious addition in 1834, and is now one of the best in the country. It is situated within a few yards of the church. The glebe consists of only about 4 acres of arable land, and pasture grass scarcely sufficient for the summer keep of one cow. The sti-

pend was modified in 1821 at 15 chalders ; and there are still about L. 100 Sterling of free teind.

The itinerant preacher in Glenlivet has L. 60 a-year, and L. 5 for furnishing communion elements ; and, besides an allowance for peats, he has a small farm on the Gordon estate, rent free, in lieu of a croft, with the privilege of a range of hill pasture for sheep.

The Roman Catholic priests are chiefly supported by their hearers ; both possess farms at moderate rents, and the one officiating at Chapelton has L. 20 a-year, from funds provided by the Abbé M'Pherson. Bishop Kyle, who resides at Pressholm, in the parish of Rathven, is the Roman Catholic bishop of the district.

Schools.—The only school in the church district, is the parish school, where the average attendance of scholars is, in summer, 44, and in winter, 53. In Glenlivet, there are 4 Protestant schools ; 3 of them male and one female ; and 3 Roman Catholic schools, 1 male and 2 female. The Roman Catholic seminary or college there, mentioned in the former report, was moved in 1799 to Achertes, near Aberdeen. Of the male Protestant teachers, one has a salary from the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge, another from the General Assembly's Committee for Highland Schools, and the third a small one of L. 5 from the Gordon estate,—and from the same quarter the Protestant female teacher has L. 5 a-year, in addition to a similar sum allowed by the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge. The Roman Catholic male, and one of the female teachers have each L. 10 a-year from funds provided by the Abbé M'Pherson ; the other has also a small salary. The General Assembly's and Society's teachers have houses and gardens ; and, with the exception of the female one, are also provided with peats, by the inhabitants of the district in which they labour, or are allowed an equivalent. The parochial schoolmaster has a good house and garden, and besides his fees, which may average about L. 11 a year, and the emoluments of the session clerkship, he has a salary of L. 28, 17s. 5d., and a share of the Dick bequest.

Some few parishioners may still be found who are unable to read and write, but their number is gradually decreasing. The schools are well attended, and the people are fully alive to the benefits of education, and ready to avail themselves of the means of it, which are now fortunately within their reach : only a female school is much wanted in the parish church district. At the Protestant schools in Glenlivet, a number of Roman children are in attendance who read the Bible, and are engaged promiscuously with

the Protestant children in all the other exercises of the school, with the exception of committing to memory the Assembly's Shorter Catechism and the Protestant version of the Psalms.

Poor.—The Protestant poor manifest no undue desire to become a burden on the funds; nor do they consider it a degradation to receive aid from them, when standing in need of it. The number on the roll is 40, and each, on the average for the year, receives in quarterly instalments about 17s. The fund for their relief (which received an accession some years ago by a bequest of L. 50, made by Sir William Grant of Bildornie, who for many years held the high appointment of Master of the Rolls,) arises chiefly from collections at the church and Protestant chapel, and the interest of a small sum laid out at interest. The Roman Catholic poor, who only receive a share of any extraordinary gift to the funds of the parish, may be said to be supported by those of their own persuasion, who make collections for them at their chapels.

Fairs.—There are four fairs held within the parish, a little to the east of the church, in the course of the year, for the sale of cattle, horses, grain, &c. and where engagements are entered into betwixt the farmers and their servants, for the harvest and half year.

Inns, &c.—In the parish church district, there are only two public-houses,—one of them an excellent inn. In Glenlivet, there are no fewer than nine public-houses,—a number quite disproportioned to the district, for which four or five would be quite sufficient.

Fuel.—Moss, as may naturally be supposed, is to be met with, in all parts of the parish. Towards the mountains, it is in general black, and of excellent quality for fuel; but in the lower and river side parts of the country, it is much exhausted, or of such bad quality, that some of the more opulent give a preference, except for the kitchen, to English coals driven from Garmouth, a distance to some of more than thirty miles.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The parish, within the last forty years, has undergone a very great change, in respect to the improving and planting of waste ground, and the state of roads, bridges, agriculture and buildings; but, by far the most important change is that which has taken place in the habits of the people, since the suppression of smuggling. The improvements which seem, at present, to be most wanted, are better marches, and greater encouragement for farmers to enclose by means of dikes and ditches, as well as for crofters to settle on the moors, in order to check the tide of emigration; bridges over

the Tervay, Crombie, and smaller streams ; cross roads in all directions, and a main one from Tomnavoulen to Achnara, round the country called Braes of Glenlivet, (which is utterly destitute of roads,) with a branch from Tomalinan to Tamintoul, and another, if *practicable*, to Glenbucket or Strathdon,—the present thoroughfare to the latter being only a pass so steep as to have obtained the very appropriate name of the Ladder. The much-talked-of line of road (which is nearly complete in this parish) from Perth to Elgin and Forres, with a bridge over the Spey at Tomdow, would also be highly beneficial to the parish. But the improvement which, above all others, is most to be desired, is the erection of a parish in the country of Glenlivet, which would be felt as a mighty boon by the Protestants, and which could not fail to be of great benefit to *all* the people. The conflicting nature of religious profession there is an evil whose consequences are deeply felt ; and dram-drinking and illegitimate births, though both considerably on the decrease, are still too frequent. Yet, with the machinery of a parish under the guidance of a faithful and judicious clergyman, in the full enjoyment of the status and emoluments of a parish minister,—it might be hoped that, under the Divine blessing, the whole inhabitants of Glenlivet, disposed as they are, readily to avail themselves of the means of religious and moral instruction, which they enjoy, would gradually be improved ; and that this beautiful and sequestered country would ere long become, what nature seems to have intended it to be, the enviable abode of religion, of happiness, and of virtue.

August 1836.

PARISH OF ALVAH.

PRESBYTERY OF TURRIFF, SYNOD OF ABERDEEN.

THE REV. ANDREW TODD, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name, Extent, Boundaries.—ALVAH and the adjoining parish of Forglen were originally united; but before the middle of the seventeenth century, they were erected into separate parishes. In the most ancient manuscripts and printed records connected with the parish, the name, Alvah, is found to occur with the varied orthographies, *Alveth, Alveth, Alvecht, Alvechte, Alvach, Altwach, Alwach* and *Avauch*; but, after the most diligent inquiry, the writer has been unable to form any probable conjecture in regard to its etymological meaning. The parish extends in length about 6 English miles; and at its greatest breadth, to nearly the same distance; but in some places, to little more than two. In Robertson's map of the counties of Aberdeen, Banff, and Kincardine, published in 1822, the superficial extent of the parish is estimated at 11,282 imperial acres, or $17\frac{2}{3}$ square miles; but, according to the most accurate information which the writer could obtain, the superficial extent is only 11,133 imperial acres, being 149 acres under the extent given in the map. On the north and north-west, Alvah is bounded by the parish of Banff; on the south-west, by Marnoch; on the south, by Forglen; on the south-east, by Turriff; and on the east and north-east by King-Edward and Gamrie.

Topographical Appearances.—The highest elevations in the parish are the hill of Alvah and the hill of Maunderlea. The former, according to Robertson's map, rises, near the northern extremity, to the height of 578 feet above the level of the sea, while the latter, situated on the confines of the parish, nearly four miles south-west of the former, has on the same authority, 155 feet of superior elevation. Both hills are rather steep towards the north, but of more easy ascent on the sides more distant from the sea.

The hill of Alvah stands apart from any other considerable or immediate elevation ; but the hill of Maunderlea, proceeding in a northerly direction from the parish of Marnoch, is connected with a series of minor elevations, which are scattered over the western and south-western division of the parish, and which give to this district a bleak and hilly appearance, strikingly contrasted with the woodland scenery which adorns the sloping sides of the hill of Alvah, and the rich and fertile lands which encircle its base. From the summit of this latter hill, the view is extensive, varied, and picturesque, and on an unclouded evening of summer, cannot be contemplated but with the most pleasing emotions. Towards the east, as far as the eye can reach, appears a large portion of the level, naked, and, comparatively speaking, uninteresting district of Buchan, having its otherwise monotonous aspect relieved, however by the bold and projecting headlands of Gamrie and Troup, which rise in frowning majesty along its shore ; on the south is beheld the Doveran flowing along between banks of the most fertile description, and here and there adorned with gentlemen's seats embowered amid thriving plantations,—the well known mountains of Bennochie, the Buck of the Cabrach, and further to the south-west, Belrinnes, appearing with imposing dignity along the line of the distant horizon. Looking in the direction of the north, the spectator beholds spread out, as it were, on a map below him, the picturesque and highly embellished scenery, amid which stands conspicuous, Duff House, the classical and magnificent mansion of the Earl of Fife,—the Doveran winding amid the surrounding woods in many a tortuous maze, as if loth to quit so fair a scene, and at length flowing into the ocean at Banff, which, together with the adjoining bay, is from this eminence distinctly visible ; while, far in the west and north-west, are seen relieved against the evening sky, the fantastic forms of the Caithness hills, behind which the sun is setting, and is throwing a parting gleam of molten gold across the broad bosom of the Moray Frith, the whole of which is stretched out before the spectator in mellow and unbroken repose, save where here and there is espied the white sail of some distant vessel.

The river Doveran may be considered as the natural boundary of Alvah on the east, although the estates of Inverichny and Dunlugas are situated on its eastern bank. This river, while within the parish of Alvah, flows nearly from south to north, and, including its numerous and beautiful windings, has a course of more than six miles in length. Where it enters the parish, it flows between

the estates of Dunlugas and Montblair, the proprietors of both of which have elegant mansions on its banks, surrounded with extensive and thriving plantations. Below the estate of Dunlugas, on the eastern bank of the river, a part of the parish of King-Edward intervenes, and at the distance of a mile and a half farther down, lies the estates of Inverichny on the same side. On the opposite side, below Montblair, are situated, in succession, the lands of Auchenbadie, Sandlaw, and a small part of the barony of Alvah. Before the Doveran leaves the parish, the scenery on either side becomes strikingly bold and picturesque. The ground rises to the north, presenting a rocky barrier, as if to intercept the progress of the stream. In this barrier, after diverting it from its northerly direction for more than a mile, a narrow chasm, as if by some great convulsion of nature, has been opened through the rocks for the reception of the water. Here the rocky and precipitous sides of the chasm are joined by a majestic arch,* which has more the appearance of a Roman structure than of a work of modern times. The chasm immediately under the bridge is only 27 feet wide, while the depth of the water is 56 feet, and from the top of the parapet to the surface of the water, the height is $55\frac{1}{2}$ feet. The scenery at the bridge of Alvah† is much and justly admired; but it is not easy by words to give any precise and accurate idea of its beauties. Immediately to the north of the bridge, the rocks start back, as it were, into a sort of amphitheatre, rising, in some places, almost a hundred feet above the water, and clothed, fringed, and festooned with the most beautiful and diversified tints, arising from the luxuriant intermixture of trees, shrubs, lichens, and mosses. The water below is collected into an extensive, deep, and dark-looking basin, exhibiting, on ordinary occasions, no appearance of life or of motion, save when momentarily agitated by the splash of the leaping salmon. Farther north, and yet higher up, arises the hill of Montcoffer, stretching away to a great distance, clothed to its top with firs, and forming the back-ground of the picture. The whole scene is of a solemn and secluded nature, and the sounds which most frequently break in on its gloomy stillness, are the scream of the heron, and the hoarse note of the raven. Farther down, the stream is again contracted by a succession of shaggy rocks and steep wooded banks, between which it

* This bridge was erected in 1772 by the late Earl James Fife.

† An engraving of the bridge of Alvah may be seen in the *Annual* entitled *Friendship's Offering*, for 1832.

urges its winding way for nearly a mile, when it becomes the eastern boundary * of the parish of Banff, at the distance of about two miles from the sea. From the bridge of Alvah, downwards, art has everywhere been successfully exerted to add beauty to the grandeur of nature. The summits of the rocks and steep banks of the river are clothed with a striking variety of forest trees, either tastefully disposed for effect, or studiously adapted to their congenial soils, while, from the rocky crevices below, springs a rich profusion of wild flowers and shrubs, that dip their pensile branches in the stream. But this scene, at all times beautiful and romantic, assumes only its character of horrible grandeur when the river is swollen in a flood. On such an occasion, the narrow chasm at the bridge of Alvah, being insufficient to admit the augmented stream, the waters are repelled by the opposing crags, and flow backwards for nearly two miles along the stream, and, in many places, extend for more than a quarter of a mile over the adjacent fields. When this mighty lake and the roused-up river, pour their waters over the opposing rocks at the entrance of the gorge above the bridge, and when the tortured stream is thence thrown down with resistless force into the narrow gap beneath the arch, where “it boils, and wheels, and foams, and thunders through,” a scene is presented of such mingled beauty and horror, that, to convey an adequate conception of it, might require the combined powers of a Claude and a Salvator.

Hydrography.—This parish abounds with perennial springs of the purest soft water, and contains also several excellent chalybeates. The most remarkable fountain of the first class is called Comes-well—a name which occurs in a charter dated more than 500 years ago. This fountain rises on the farm of Tippetty, at the northern base of the hill of Alvah, and is as remarkable for its magnitude as for the excellence of its water. It throws out twenty-seven imperial gallons in a minute, and when tried by the hydrometer appears only a shade heavier than water distilled. It has long been envied by the people of Banff, but has never yet been conducted thither, although such a scheme has been frequently contemplated. Many other fountains, of similar quality, spring from the base of the same hill, but none of them rise far up its sides. The temperature of the numerous springs within the parish ranges from

* By some, the parish is said to extend downwards, along the course of the river, until within a very short distance of the *cruive dyke*; others are of opinion that its northern boundary is only a few hundred yards below the bridge.

45° to 46° of Fahrenheit, with the exception of the well at Kemplemire, of which the temperature is as high as 50°. The formation of calcareous concretions has been ascribed to drinking from this last-mentioned fountain; but from a recent chemical analysis, the water does not appear to be distinguished by any quality productive of such a disorder.—None of the chalybeates are worthy of particular notice, with the exception of the Red Gill well on the hill of Brownside, and a spring rising on the Hill-head of Montblairry. Each of these has been found to hold a greater quantity of iron in solution, than either the Red-well in Boyndie, or the well of Tarlair in Gamrie. From a qualitative analysis recently obtained, it appears that the Red Gill well contains a large quantity of the protoxide of iron held in solution by excess of carbonic acid, with an average quantity of chloride of sodium, carbonate and sulphate of lime. The Hill-head spring contains fully as large a quantity of iron as the former, held in solution as a protoxide by excess of carbonic acid, with rather less carbonate and sulphate of lime, but with fully as much salt. The writer has obtained analyses of several of the other springs, but the results are marked by no peculiarity worthy of insertion. The whole of the springs appear to arise, in general, between the clay-slate and greywacke, which constitute the prevailing rocks within the parish.

The only river is the Doveran, which has only three tributaries of any consequence within the parish. Two of these flow from west to east, and join the river at Auchenbadie and Mill of Montblairry, the other flows from east to west, and joins the river at Boat of Ashoagle. The breadth of the Doveran varies from 90 to 320 feet.

*Geology and Mineralogy.**—This parish presents but few features interesting in a geological point of view. The surface, although varied and irregular, and raised up into small hills and rising grounds, and intersected by hollows and chasms, yet affords but an occasional view of the solid strata. In the higher grounds, and in those places where the soil has been opened up, and quarried for building, the solid strata are occasionally discovered, but in other places they are covered up by deep diluvial beds, the thickness of which it would be difficult to determine. The hollows, ingeneral, are not traversed by any stream of magnitude sufficient to disclose the nature of the adjacent rocks: hence our

* For this section, and for information on other points connected with this report, the writer has to acknowledge his obligations to James Christie, Esq. Banff.

report upon this head has been attended with more difficulty than was at first anticipated. Enough, however, has been seen to afford sufficient evidence of the structure and superposition of the solid strata.

The direction of the strata is from north-east to south-west, or perhaps, where the strata have been more than usually deranged, varying a point or two nearer the south on the one hand, and the north on the other; and the dip is to the north-west and south-east at right angles to the direction. The eastern side of the parish is watered by the river Doveran, the banks of which, and the lower grounds, are a deep alluvial loam, resting on a bed of blue clay, intermixed with clay-slate, in broken fragments and in a state of dissolution. Indeed, it appears to me, that the bed of blue clay on which the alluvial and vegetable soils rest, is almost wholly a formation arising from the disintegration and dissolution of the clay-slate on which they are reposing. The vegetable soil on the lower grounds of the other parts of the parish is also reposing on a bed of diluvial coarse clay, and occasionally intermixed with thin veins or beds of ferruginous sand, shingle, and water-worn boulders; and on the higher grounds, around the hills of Tippertry, Alvah, &c. the soil reposes on beds of sand and shingle, intermixed with fragments of greywacke slate, &c. These are resting, throughout the whole parish, on a bed of clay-slate, which again is resting on a bed of greywacke, and on which the clay-slate lies in a conformable position, and in its lower strata following the windings of that mineral, with which, at their junction, the greywacke passes into greywacke slate, and for some distance alternates with the clay-slate. The greywacke is intersected with thin veins of quartz, the greatest thickness of which may be about four or five inches. These veins ramify through the mass, diminishing in size till they totally disappear. The angle of elevation of the clay-slate is different at different places. Towards the top of the hill of Alvah, the clay-slate is standing almost vertical; but on descending the hill the angle diminishes, and in the lower grounds, where the strata are less deranged, it is found almost horizontal. I cannot, with certainty, determine the existence of any fault or dike by which the strata are deranged. The upper bed of the hill of Tippertry, toward the base, is clay-slate, but towards the top of the hill, coarse mica-slate passing into secondary gneiss crops out; but we are unable to determine the strata on which these last repose.

Rolled blocks were formerly common throughout the parish ; but on the surface of the cultivated ground most of them have yielded to an improved husbandry long ago. A few blocks of greywacke, similar to the rocks *in situ*, are still to be seen on the waste and rising grounds, between the farms of Clayfolds and Sandlaw ; and on the hill of Maunderlea, on the south-western boundary of the parish, a number of rolled blocks of granite, coarse mica-slate, gneiss, quartz, and trap, are still to be seen on the surface, and many similar are found deeply imbedded in the soil. Various blocks of sandstone are also intermixed, of a coarse and hard texture, altogether different from any sandstone rock within the county ; but most of those of a larger size have been fashioned into rabbets and lintels, or otherwise employed as materials for building.

The existence of flints in Scotland is a recent discovery, the chalk formation in which they form a constituent part of the upper beds, being there unknown. Notwithstanding, flints have now been found both in this and the neighbouring parishes, which geologists have considered to be the true chalk flints. They are common on the sea shore, intermixed with the shingle along the beach adjacent to Banff, and have also been traced to Gamrie, and to the eastward as far as Peterhead. A large deposit of flints was first discovered in the hill of Delgaty, imbedded in a sort of unctuous clay, intermixed with nodules of quartz and shingle. They have also been discovered by Colonel Gordon of Park, in the parish of Ordiquhill, and they have been met with in the hill of Alvah, and in different other places within the parish. As there are no chalk-beds in this country, it appears evident that the flints and other debris, dissimilar to the rocks *in situ*, must have been brought there by some mighty inundation from a great distance, sweeping off the superior strata from extensive tracts which they once covered, and spreading and throwing them together in indiscriminate masses at great distances from the range, with which they have every appearance of having been once connected. To this great cause we cannot help assigning the great mass of the upper beds of coarse clay, intermixed with every variety of the debris of rock, neither to be found here *in situ*, nor at any known distance from the spot. To this general covering of water-worn debris then, torn from all the strata, the name of diluvium has been given by geologists, from that great and universal catastrophe to which it appears most properly assignable. Within

this parish there are no data from which we might form even a probable conjecture, in regard to the direction of this mighty current. Were we, however, permitted to travel beyond our bounds, we might remark, in passing, that, in the neighbouring parish of Boyndie, a narrow line of water-worn boulders of hornblend and hypersthene, many of them weighing more than thirty tons, runs from a north-easterly to a south-westerly direction, and which are traced more than thirty miles in that line through part of the parishes of Boyndie, Ordiquhill, Grange, Keith, Cairney, &c. while no rock on that line, of the same kind, is found *in situ*.

No organic remains are known to have been found within the parish, neither of plants nor animals, neither the ores of any of the metals, with the exception of iron, which, in combination with the mineral, gives it its colouring matter.

Zoology.*—The mammalia, and indeed most of the other animals, are, with perhaps a few exceptions, precisely the same in number and character in this parish as they are in most of the parishes immediately adjoining.

Pearls are occasionally found in the Doveran. They are, however, of very small size, and of no great brilliancy.

Entomology.—On this head it may be mentioned that a few years ago, a large and beautiful specimen was found at Montblair, in this parish, of the death's-head hawk-moth (*Sphinx atropos*). This insect is said to advance with the cultivation of the potato. Mr Duncan, in his History of British Moths (Naturalists' Library, Vol. xiv.) does not take notice of any example of it having been hitherto met with so far north. The specimen now mentioned is in the possession of a gentleman in Banff.

Botany.—This parish possesses a highly interesting Flora; but, from a list of about 460 species transmitted by the writer, we have only room for the insertion of the following *plantæ rariores*:

| | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Adoxa moschatellina | Bidens cernua | Epilobium angustifolium |
| Agrimonia Eupatoria | Botrychium Lunaria | Fragaria vesca |
| Aira cristata | Brachypodium sylvaticum | Galeopsis versicolor |
| Alchemilla alpina | Briza media | Galium boreale |
| Alisma Plantago | Bromus asper | ~~~~~ Mollugo |
| Anagallis arvensis | ~~~~~ giganteus | Geranium pratense |
| ~~~~~ tenella | Campanula latifolia | ~~~~~ sylvaticum |
| Arenaria trinervis | Chrysosplenium alternifo- | Goodyera repens |
| Asperula odorata | ~~~~~ lium | Habenaria viridis |
| Asplenium Adiantum-ni- | Circeæ alpina | Helianthemum vulgare |
| grum | Drosera rotundifolia | Hippuris vulgaris |

* A detailed account of the zoology of the parish, for which the writer was indebted to the Rev. James Smith, Banff, a gentleman highly distinguished both in moral and natural science, is preserved along with the MS.

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Hyacinthus non-scriptus | Parnassia palustris | Scirpus sylvaticus |
| Hypericum hirsutum | Peplis Portula | Sedum villosum |
| ~~~~~ perforatum | Polypodium Dryopteris | Silene inflata |
| ~~~~~ quadrangulum | Potamogeton lucens | Sisymbrium thalianum |
| Lamium album | Pyrola media | Solidago virgaurea |
| Lepidium Smithii | ~~~~~ minor | Spergula nodosa |
| Linnea borealis | Radiola millegrana | Stellaria nemorum |
| Listera cordata | Rubus corylifolius | Veronica scutellata |
| Lithospermum arvense | ~~~~~ saxatilis | Viburnum Opulus |
| Lotus major | Sanicula Europæa | Utriculata vulgaris |
| Melampyrum pratense | Saxifraga aizoides | ~~~~~ minor |
| Ornithopus perpusillus | Scandix Pecten | |

Plantations.—There are about 750 imperial acres under wood, nearly 300 of which have been planted within the last forty years. The trees most generally planted are the Scotch fir and larch, intermixed occasionally with a considerable proportion of beech, ash, oak, elm, plane, birch, alder, horse-chesnut, Spanish chesnut, lime, poplar, silver-fir, spruce-fir, service-tree, mountain-ash, laburnum, holly, &c. &c. Judging by the comparative growth, the particular species of trees do not, in every instance, especially in the earliest plantations, appear to have been placed in the soil most congenial to their growth. The experience of the past, however, will, it is probable, prevent in future the occurrence of such mistakes as may have been committed in this respect. As yet, it seems doubtful whether the soil generally is more congenial to the Scotch fir or to the larch. It is plain, however, that there are many stations more favourable to the one than to the other, and not a few unfavourable to both, where, notwithstanding, spruce and silver fir, as also beech and oak, are of vigorous growth. In regard to Scotch firs,* the result of many experiments seems to have rendered it certain, that plants raised from seed collected from the natural forest, grow more vigorously, and produce timber of better quality than the common plants of the nursery. The fine thriving firs immediately behind the house of Dunlugas were raised from plants of the former description, and by the accustomed eye might be distinguished as such, from the peculiar tinge of their foliage. Upon the whole, with a few exceptions in the more elevated localities exposed to the blast of the north, the soil of the parish is well adapted to the growth of timber of various kinds; and if any opinion may be formed from the success of former plantations, the soil, if judiciously selected, is congenial to a

* The Scotch fir of this part of the country is, properly speaking, the Canadian fir. The true Scotch fir is more red in the colour, its bark has a cleaner and shining appearance, its boughs are more gnarled, its timber is reckoned of superior quality, and altogether its appearance is more majestic and picturesque. It may be seen in perfection at Marr Lodge.

much greater proportion of ash, oak, beech, elm, spruce, and silver fir, than has yet been introduced.*

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Documents, Transactions, &c.—In the Advocates' Library at Edinburgh, is preserved a very ancient parchment,† containing the particulars of a transaction connected with this parish, at a distance of more than 500 years. This document is a charter of donation made by Marjory,‡ relict of the deceased John Earl of Atholl, Lord Strathalveth, with consent of her son David, her lawful heir. The tenor of the donation is, that for the salvation of her own soul, as well as that of her deceased husband, John, Earl of Atholl, Lord Strathalveth, and of her father Donald,§ Earl of Mar, she gives to the blessed Virgin Mary, to God, and to the Abbot of Cupar, the right of patronage of the kirk of Alveth, with the whole lands of Kirktown of Alveth next the kirk. The charter, after the usual preamble, details very minutely the

* We have every reason to believe, that, if the following species were introduced here, they would thrive better and prove more useful than any of the pines and firs now cultivated in this quarter: *Pinus uncinata*, *P. resinosa*, *P. Pyrenaica*, *P. pinca*, *P. Laricio*, *P. mitis*, *P. Gerardiana*, *P. Strobilus*, *P. excelsa*, *Abies pinca*, *A. Webbiana*, *A. Douglassii*, &c.

† This parchment was formerly one of the manuscripts of the late William Rose, Esq. of Montcoffer, to whose son, Patrick Rose, Esq. Banff, the writer is indebted for the copy now, for the first time, published. The writer has also to acknowledge his obligations to the same gentleman for affording him the use of the materials, out of which the report on this head has chiefly been drawn.

‡ This countess was the daughter of Donald, *alias* Bayne, Earl of Mar, and wife of John, tenth Earl of Atholl and Strathbogie. This Earl of Atholl was a great patriot, and joined Robert Bruce at the battle of Methven; but, being afterwards discovered, was conducted to London, where, notwithstanding his alliance by blood, to the English monarch, he was condemned and executed A.D. 1306. In consequence of his royal descent, he was hanged on a scaffold thirty feet higher than ordinary. Before life was extinct, he was taken down, when his head was cut off, and fixed on London Bridge, and his body burnt to ashes. As a ransom for his soul, his widow gave the lands of Alvah, *ut supra*.

David, eleventh Earl of Atholl, was son and heir of the above-mentioned countess, and of John Earl of Atholl and Strathbogie, and gave his consent to the above-mentioned donation. He was a favourite of King Robert Bruce, and was made High Constable of Scotland in 1311. Having afterwards withdrawn his allegiance, and revolted to the English monarch, the office of High Constable was given to Sir Gilbert Hay, and Atholl's estates were forfeited. He was married to Joan Cumyn, eldest daughter and coheirress of John Lord Badenoch, and by her had a son, David de Strathbogie, the twelfth Earl of Atholl. It is said he had other sons, from whom the M'Intoshes, Duffs, &c. are believed to be descended.

§ This Donald, Earl of Mar, father of the Countess of Atholl, Strathbogie, and Strathalvah, was taken prisoner at the battle of Methven, confined eight years in London, exchanged for an English nobleman taken at Bannockburn, and conducted to Scotland in 1314. About this time he appears to have died, for the charter of confirmation accompanying the charter of donation, is granted by his son and successor, Thomas Earl of Mar, on the 19th March in the same year.

From an old and scarce work entitled "Index to Charters by King David II," it appears that this Thomas, Earl of Mar, granted a charter of the lands of Sandhaugh, (now called Sandlaw,) and of the half of Auchenbadie to Thomas Hill, a person of whose history nothing is now known.

boundaries of the donation, in the following words—" usq. ad meta versus villā de Banff que dicitur lie Stanemannishead juxta commune de Banff antedict. ex boreali, descendendo in aquā de Dowern cum dicta aqua et piscatione ejusd. ascendendo ad lie meirburn ex orientali usq. ad lie blackbank et fowlfurd et inde extendendo ad knockne ex australi, ascendendo rivulem statent de lie Claretwell usq. ad viā ascendendo slakmethy et inde descendendo per viā usq. ad slacklethy descendendo ad fontem et rivulem ejusd. usq. ad redbank et illius ascendendo torrent fluent in aqua de Dowern usq. at Ranate hillock et inde ad lie Crukithillock et ad lie Scurryfurd ascendendo ad magnam foveā vulgariter lie Greit slack et Rishypannis, descendendo ad lie Comeswell et inde ad fontem Sancti Joannis et bludypotts ad burgusæt stains inter communam de Banff et terrā ecclesiasticā de Alveth antedict. ex occidentali partibus cum aliis omnibus terris avisamentis simulet et libertatibus." This charter is dated at Aberbrothwick, " A. D. 1314, die xx. proximo post Sancti Pauli Apli," and is signed by many witnesses, among whom are the Bishops of Dunkeld and Brechin, the Abbots of Dumfermling and Aberbrothwick, with several knights and persons of distinction. The above-mentioned donation is accompanied by a charter of confirmation, granted by Thomas Earl of Mar, Lord Strathalveth, signed and sealed, " apud Moravien. sedem an. dni 1314, et 19 marcij," in presence of many witnesses of distinction. To this charter of confirmation there is a docquet subjoined in the holograph of Thomas Deir, designed " clericus St Andreæ dioc. ac sacra aplica aucto: Notarius," by which Henry, Bishop of Aberdeen, confirms the said donations, 1375.

The charters of donation and confirmation, of which we have here given the substance, are very interesting as documents of great antiquity, and if rightly interpreted may yet become important in other respects. The northern boundary of the parish of Alvah cannot, at present, be precisely determined by the oldest inhabitant, nor, in so far as the writer has been able to discover, are there any existing documents, excepting the charter before us, which seem at all calculated to throw any light on the subject. If the localities here mentioned could be exactly determined, the question would doubtless be set at rest; but the face of the country has undergone so many important changes from the progress of improvement, that it is now impossible to identify the present names of places, with names which have, probably, long since been changed and forgotten.

Several of the places mentioned in the charter, however, are known by the same names at the present day,—a circumstance which enables us to form a more probable conjecture with regard to the localities of the rest; and accordingly with this assistance and that of the native octogenarians and others, we have given in a note*

* To determine the precise locality of the *Stanemannishead* is the first and greatest difficulty which presents itself in tracing the bounds of this ancient donation. From the words of the charter, the *Stanemannishead* must have extended on the north to the town lands of Banff, and these lands are known from tradition and other evidence, to have stretched into the interior of the country as far as Cairnelpie, situated on the north-eastern angle of the farm of Wardend, and are supposed to have been bounded by a line, nearly straight, passing from thence to the river Doveran, in the direction of the row of old thorn trees which crosses the upper end of the deer-park. That part of the parish which lies adjacent to this line is now called Craig-head,—a name which bears some distant resemblance to the *Stanemannishead*, and in terms of the charter lies due north of the church of Alvah. Supposing this line, then, to mark the boundary on the north, we are now directed, in tracing the eastern limit, to ascend the river Doveran as far as the *Meirburn*. This name, although now almost forgotten, is still remembered by a few as the name formerly given to the small burn which flows between the farms of Mill of Alvah and Clayfolds. On ascending this streamlet, in terms of the charter, we arrive at Blackbank and Fowlfurd, places which, although now unknown by these names, must have stood on the same burn a little below the present manse. A little farther up lies Knokkne, a place which still retains its ancient name. From this we are directed to ascend the stream which flows from Claret-well, until we come to the road ascending to Slakmethy. The Claret-well is still known by the same name, and the stream which flows from it is only the upper end of the *Meirburn*—circumstances which confirm the opinion given in regard to the previously mentioned localities. The road ascending southward to Slakmethy, (although this name is now forgotten), can be no other than the road ascending to the place now called Berryhillocks, and the descent from thence to Slacklethly must be the continuation of the same slack to the place now called Kemplemire. From the well at Slacklethly (Kemplemire), the charter directs us to follow the stream to its junction, at Redbank, with the torrent which flows into Doveran. Redbank must be identified with Path-head, and the torrent passing this and flowing into Doveran is the burn of Stonylea. Ascending this burn, as directed, we arrive at Ranate hillock, a place which probably corresponds with what is now called Ranald's hillock, situated on the same burn a little below Bythestown. Farther up we come to the Crukit-hillock, a name which, although now lost, is quite descriptive of the Broomhillock below Firfolds. Still farther up is Scurryfurd, which is probably the place where an old road now crosses the marshy hollow north-west of Bythestown, near the Slacks. We are next directed to ascend to the Greit Slack and Rishypannis. The Greit Slack is, no doubt, the Slacks of Tippetty, which commence immediately above the supposed locality of Scurryfurd. Rishypannis or Rishypans is a name not uncommon in this part of the country, and probably the Rishypannis of the charter may have been somewhere about the lower and once marshy extremity of the Slacks of Tippetty. From these Slacks a hollow on the farm of Tippetty leads directly to the next station, viz. Comeswell—a well which still retains its ancient name. In completing the circuit, we are now directed to proceed from Comeswell to St John's well, and Bludypott's ad Burgusæt stains inter comunam de Banff et terrā ecclesiasticā de Alveth. The site of St John's well is now unknown, and that of Bludypott's can only be conjectured. In regard to the Burgusæt stains we have more certainty. One of these was dug up more than twenty years ago, near the wood of Bauchlaw, on the north-east angle of the farm of Wardend. The letter B was rudely carved on it, and tradition had previously marked the spot where it was found, as the point to which the Banff lands at one period extended. With true antiquarian taste and feeling, this stone was broken down and employed as material for building. Near the place where it was discovered, once stood a cairn known by the name of Cairnelpie, in removing which, the fragments of a human skeleton were found. According to tradition, these were the remains of a person murdered here in former times, and as the cairn once stood on the margin of

below what we conceive to have formed the probable boundaries of this ancient donation, which, if our conjecture be right, will point out the northern boundary of the parish. We need only farther remark at present, that the boundary of the donation which we have attempted to trace, comprehends almost the whole of the lands possessed by the present Earl of Fife, within this parish, west of the river Doveran; and if, (as the best accredited genealogies affirm,) his Lordship be descended from the Atholl family, it is a very curious fact, that he should be in possession, at the present day, of the lands which were given away by his ancestor at the distance of 524 years.

It was the writer's intention to have traced the succession of landed property in the parish from the date of the above-mentioned charter down to the present time: but materials accumulated to an extent so incompatible with a work of this description, that he has found it necessary to present only a few detached fragments of the more interesting and less generally known portions of this part of our history.

In the "*Registrum Magni Sigilli Regum Scotorum in Archivis publicis asservatum*," is found (at page 250,) the confirmation of a grant, of date 1410, by Alexander Stewart, Earl of Marr and Garviach, (Garioch,) and Dominus de Dufle in Brabant, to his brother Andrew Stewart, of the lands of Sandhalch, (Sandlaw,) in the barony of Montblairy. This Earl of Marr and his brother Andrew, were two of the five natural sons of Alexander Stewart, Earl of Marr, better known by the appropriate name of the Wolf of Badenoch. In 1426, Douglas, Lord Balveny had a grant of Strathalvah confirmed by King James I. After the forfeiture of Douglas, the Lordship of Balveny, reverting to the crown, was in

a deep and extensive pond, the place at an early period may probably have obtained the name of Bludypotts. Thus have we arrived at the place from which we set out, namely, the Stanemannishead—a place already identified with what is now called Craighead. This Craighead, as already mentioned, stretches in a line from the Burgusæt stains at Bludypotts or Cairnelpie to the river Doveran, and this line across the upper end of the deer-park is now pretty generally considered the northern boundary of the parish of Alvah, although there are some who positively maintain that the parish extends a considerable distance farther to the north. If a few more of the Burgusæt stains were discovered between Cairnelpie and Doveran, the boundary, perhaps, might be determined with greater certainty. In regard to the boundary which we have now traced, it need only be farther remarked, that the ascents and descents, the heights and hollows, the points of the compass, and the course of the streams, all correspond with the terms of the charter,—circumstances, which, taken in connection with the names still extant, render it highly probable that the above outline is pretty accurately delineated. The northern boundary of the Stanemannishead is the only point about which any doubt can be entertained. Mr Cowie has the principal merit of tracing the boundaries of this ancient donation.

1460 disposed to Sir John Stewart, afterwards created Earl of Atholl; but with this lordship he does not seem to have received any of the lands of Alvah, for we find that his younger brother, Sir James Stewart, received a charter of Strathalvah from King James II. in 1466, and of the lands of Sandlach (Sandlaw,) in 1492. These two Stewarts were sons of Sir James Stewart, commonly called the Black Knight of Lorn, and of Joanna, dowager of King James I., and were, consequently, uterine brothers of King James II., for which they seem to have been distinguished by many marks of royal favour. The former (Sir John Stewart,) was created Earl of Atholl, and the latter, (Sir James Stewart, known also by the name of Hearty James,) received Strathalvah and Sandlaw, as already stated, and was created Earl of Buchan in 1469, and appointed great Chamberlain of Scotland in 1471. From several existing charters, it appears that the Stewarts, and afterwards the Douglasses, Earls of Buchan, retained property in the parish of Alva upwards of 150 years after the last mentioned date. From the worked printed by command of King George III. in 1811, and entitled, “*Inquisitionum ad Capellam Domini Regis Retornatum, quæ in publicis archivis Scotiæ adhuc servantur abbreviatis,*”* it ap-

* From this work the following excerpts may be quoted as possessing great local interest at the present time :

Feb. 19, 1593.—Joannes Johnston, hæres Georgii Johnston, de eodem, *patris*,—in annuo redditu L. 40 de villis et terris de Sandlaw in parochia de Strathavauch.

December 17, 1624.—Alexander Fraser de Philorth, hæres masculus domini Alexandri Fraser de Fraserburgh militis, *patris*,—in terris de Tibbertie, (Tipperty); villa et terris de Outlaw (Itlaw); terris de Forefauld (Firfold); villa et terris de Bremlaw (Greenlaw); villa et terris de Feltiehead, (Fattyhead,) cum Newtown de Outlaw.

October 7, 1625. Walterus Ogilvie de Banff, hæres domini Georgii Ogilvie de Dunluggas, militis, *patris*,—in terris de Outlaw et Tippetries comprehendentibus terras dominicales vulgo Maynes de Tipperty, Brockiestown, Kiltrie-knock, Briggis hillock, Barbit hill, Rosyburn cum molendino.

January 11, 1628.—Dom. Geo. Ogilvie de Carnousies, miles, baronetus, hæres Georgii Ogilvie de Carnousie, *patris*,—in terris de Nether Daehries (Deuchries) infra baroniam de Strathalvah—terris de Craighead de Alva, et terris vocatis Keaw in parochia de Alva.

June 15, 1648.—Patricius Comes de Kinghorne, Dominus Lyon et Glames, hæres masculus Joannis Comitis de Kinghorne, domini Lyon et Glames, *patris*,—in dimidietate terrarum et Baronia de Montblairy et salmonum piscarie in dicta aqua de Doverne; dimidietate terrarum de Rylands, dimidietate Blacktown, Hairwood-hill, (Herod-hill) Over Deuchries, dimidietate Auchinbadie cum piscatione, dimidietate Stanieley, Balgray et Knoekin.

August 5, 1669.—Christina, Isobella, et Elizabetha Hackats, hæredes portionariæ Walteri Hackat de Meyen, *patris*,—in 3 aratris terrarum baroniæ de Outlaw. viz. 8 bovatis terræ de Outlaw, et 4 bovatis terræ, villæ, et terrarum de Brockiestown, 8 bovatis terræ villæ et terrarum de Outlaw, et 4 bovatis terræ de Outlaw, apud molendinum de Rosseburrie, extendentibus, in toto, ad 3 aratra terrarum infra parochiam de Alwach.

October 29, 1695.—Johannes Conmes de Strathmore et Kinghorne, &c. hæres Patricii Comitis de Strathmore et Kinghorne, vicecomitis Lyon, dom. Glamis— in reliquo comitatus et prædii de Buchan, comprehendente (*inter alius*)—terras de Montblairy, Rylands, Deuchris, Blacktown, Hairwood Hill, Newton de Montblairy.

pears that Maria Douglas, Countess of Buchan, had in 1615, charters of the following lands, in the barony of Montblair, viz. Waistryne, Newtown, Todlaw, Quhitfield, Smedytown, and Haltown of Montblair, the dominical lands of Auchenbadie with the mill, the lands of Staneley, the other lands of Auchenbadie, and lands of Ryland with the mill. Soon after this, a great part of these lands seems to have passed into other hands; for from the work just referred to, we find James Earl of Moray in possession of the barony of Montblair and Ryland in 1619. About seventy or eighty years previously to this date, the other lands of the parish seem to have been possessed chiefly by Sir Walter Ogilvie of Dunlugas, whose rare turn for the acquisition of property is noticed in the present Statistical Account of the parish of Banff. Among the valuable manuscripts which belonged to the late William Rose, Esq. Montcoffer, was a charter to Sir Walter Ogilvie of Dunlugas, granted 2d February 1593, by the Cisterians of Cupar, of the lands of Alvah and Inverichny. The lands of Alvah, here mentioned, were, no doubt, the donation of the Countess of Atholl, already particularly noticed; but how the Cisterians became possessed of Inverichny is not very clear. From Nisbet's Append. 171, Inverichny would seem to have been mortified to Strathbogie, and probably may have been presented by him to the Abbot of Cupar soon after the donation made by the Countess of Atholl. The charter conveying the above-mentioned lands to Sir Walter Ogilvie is now deposited in the Advocates' Library at Edinburgh, and as it seems to have been quite unknown to all the collectors of antiquities of this kind, it may here be intelligibly presented in the following abridged form: "*Omnibus, &c. Donaldus, &c. Abbas monasterii de Cupro, &c. dedisse, &c. Waltero Ogilvy de Dunlugas militi et Alisonæ Home ejus conjugii et eorum alteri diutius viventi in conjuncta Infeodatione et hereditibus suis subscriptis pro nonnullis magnis pecuniarij summis per ipsos nobis in nra magna urgente et cognita necessitate, &c. Totas et integras terras nrs de Alveth et Innerithny cum piscariis earund. supra aquâ de duvern et suis pertinen. infra vicicomita de Banff extenden annuatim nro in rentali in omnibus proficuis ad summa duodece libra monetæ Scotice—Tenendas et Habendas, (viz. said lands, &c. by the said Walter and Alison, and longest liver of them)—et hereditibus inter ipsos legitime procreatis seu procreandis; Quibus deficien Georgio Ogilvy filio naturali predict. Walteri et hereditibus suis de corpore suo legitime procreandis; Quibus Oibus, quod ab-*"

sit, deficientibus legitimis et propinquioribus heredibus dicti Walteri quibuscunq. de nobis et successoribus nris in feoda firma emphiteōs et hereditate per omnes rectas metas, &c. &c.—warranted and dated at the Monastery, 2d February 1359—testibus Johanne Campbell de Calder, milite, Archibaldo Campbell, ejus filio, et herede apparente, et magistro Andrea Barclay,” &c. &c.

This Sir Walter Ogilvie was the ancestor of Lord Banff, and as his lineal descendant is still the most considerable heritor in the parish, he may, perhaps, with propriety, be more particularly noticed. He was grandson of Sir Walter Ogilvie of Auchleven, ancestor of the first Earl of Findlater, and great grandson of Sir Walter Ogilvie of Lintrathen, High Treasurer of Scotland in 1425, and ancestor of the family of Airly. Besides the property granted to him, in the parish, by the charter just mentioned, he acquired from Urquhart of Cromarty, in 1530, the half of Dunlugas,* Sandlaw, and the haugh of Newton. The other lands of Alvah, excepting Montblair and Auchinbadie, he obtained from the Frasers of Philorth. He had also charters of Scatterly and Castletown in the parish of King-Edward, of Blackhill in Morayshire, the lands of Petty, Braithliern, Strathe, and the Castle of Howhill in Inverness-shire, Carnousie, in Banffshire, and Monycabok in the county of Aberdeen. From the Barclays of Montcoffer he acquired the Mains of Montcoffer and Gaveny. By his wife, Alisone Hume, daughter and co-heiress of Sir Patrick Hume of Fastcastle, he had a considerable estate. He had also extensive property in the county of Berwick, besides smaller estates in other parts of the country. From Leonard, Commendator of Cupar, he obtained the teinds of the parish of Alvah, and from the Abbey of Arbroath the teinds of Banff and Gamrie. His successor, for some time, appears to have rapidly increased the family property, and his great grandson, Sir George Ogilvie, for his eminent loyalty and faithful services, particularly in the action against Montrose and the Covenanters, at the bridge of Dee in 1639, was raised to the Peerage, by the title of First Lord Banff, by King Charles I. in 1642. His lineal descendant, the Honourable Lady Abercromby of Forglen,† daughter of the seventh Lord Banff, still re-

* The other half of Dunlugas belonged to John Lord Drummond, 1490; and by gift, 1511, mortified in favour of the King's College, Aberdeen, for the support of a Professor of Theology, and feued to Sir W. Ogilvie by the College for L. 19, 1s. Scotch.—MS. History of the town of Banff, by W. Rose, Esq. Montcoffer.

† The Honourable Lady Abercromby died in 1838, and has been succeeded by her, son Sir Robert Abercromby of Birkenbog and Forglen, Bart.

tains an extensive portion of the lands of her ancestors, and is, at present, the most considerable proprietor in the parish.

Eminent Characters.—This parish has produced but few individuals eminently distinguished. Dr George Chapman may, perhaps, with some hesitation, be mentioned as one. By a reference to the register of baptisms, it appears that he was born at Little Blacktown, and baptised August 18, 1723. A minute in the session records also intimates, that, while a student in philosophy, he taught the school of his native parish. He afterwards acquired distinguished reputation as a teacher and a scholar, at Dalkeith, Dumfries, Inchdrewer, and Banff. He finally removed to Edinburgh, where for some years he carried on business as a printer, and at the same time, received boarders, the instruction of whom formed his favourite recreation almost to the close of a life which extended to the age of eighty-three years. His “Treatise on Education,” and his other smaller publications on the same subject, were, at the time of their appearance, justly esteemed for their practical utility.

The name of another individual, to whose memory a monument has been erected at the public expense, may also be allowed a place in the statistics of the parish in which he resided, and in which, his memory is still cherished with respect. The late Major General Andrew Hay, who sold the estate of Montblair to the uncle of the present proprietor, was distinguished in the parish by his generous and public spirit, no less than by his valour in the field. To perpetuate his military fame, an elegant monument has been erected in St Paul’s Cathedral, London, bearing the following inscription: “Erected at the public expense to the memory of Major General Andrew Hay. He was born in the county of Banff in Scotland, and fell on the 14th of April 1814, before the Fortress of Bayonne, in France, in the fifty-second year of his age and the thirty-fourth of his services, closing a military life, marked by zeal, prompt decision, and signal intrepidity.”

Land-Owners.—The only heritors in the parish are, Lady Abercromby, who possesses the patronage of the church; the Earl of Fife; the Trustees of the late Earl James Fife; Alexander Morison, Esq. of Montblair; Hans George Leslie, Esq. of Dunlugas; and Harry Leith Lumsden, Esq. of Rosyburn. It is but justice to say that they are all liberal and encouraging to industrious tenants. The only resident proprietors are Mr Morison and Mr Leslie.

Parochial Registers.—These consist of one quarto and six folio

volumes, and appear to have been regularly kept, in so far, perhaps, as the keepers were concerned. But, from the numerous applications for extracts of births and marriages, which are not to be found in the registers, it is evident, that, until within a recent period, both births and marriages have been very irregularly entered. Each successive keeper of these registers appears also to have made his entries after a form of his own, and in some cases, these entries are very defective in point of information. For instance the date of baptism is often recorded without the date of birth, and without mentioning the place of residence. The father's name is also often recorded without that of the mother; and the residence or designation of witnesses, until of late years, appears never to have been noticed. These and other irregularities, it is believed, prevail to a great extent in our parochial registers, and should any change take place in the mode of keeping them, this is a point to which the devisers of a better scheme, ought to be particularly directed. It might tend, perhaps, to secure uniformity and regularity, if the pages of our registers were uniformly printed, and draughted in the form of schedules, with spaces left to be filled up with dates, names, places of residence, and other essential details. Each page should also be subscribed by the name of the keeper of the register, and every exertion made to enforce registration.

Our earliest recorded baptism is dated May 17, 1718, and the earliest minute of session, May 13, 1718. The earlier records are said to have been destroyed by accidental fire:—Others maintain that they were carried off by Mr George Campbell, minister of the parish, who, in 1718, was ejected from his charge on account of his adherence to Episcopacy.

Antiquities.—Scarcely any remains of antiquity are now to be found in the parish. Some years ago, a tumulus was opened on the farm of Sandlaw, containing several rudely sculptured vases of baked earth. In a tumulus, on the farm of Boghead, were found several vases of a similar kind, containing ashes. Contiguous to this tumulus is a large stone called *carlin kist*, supposed to be part of a “cromlech,” or *kist-vaen*. In digging into a small gravel hillock, near Mountblairy, a rude stone case or coffin, about four feet square, was discovered, and, on removing the stone which formed the lid, were found some ashes and a few fragments of calcined bones. In digging graves in the churchyard, several vases containing ashes have been found, but differing from others dis-

covered in the parish, in having handles attached, and in being glazed over with a substance resembling the exterior coating of the coarse earthen-ware of the present day. On the eastern brow of the hill of Alvah, is a large tumulus or cairn, consisting chiefly of small stones and earth. It is of an elliptical form, covering an area of about 20 falls, and in the centre rising to the height of 7 or 8 feet, but has never been sufficiently opened to disclose any remains of antiquity. Two smaller unopened cairns are also to be seen on the hill of Tippetty, and on the farm of Itlaw. There is also on the farm of Auchenbadie an apparently artificial mound of earth, nearly fifty feet high. It is known by the name of *Ha'-hill*; but there is no tradition respecting it, nor have any remains of antiquity been found in it. On the farm of Burreldales, there remain four large stones of a Druidical circle, and on the farm of Newtown of Montblairy, one large stone marks the site where, a few years ago, stood another circle of much larger dimensions. Some time ago, a Druidical circle was found under ground, in digging deep into an old garden on the farm of Wardend. The ruins of the ancient castle which once stood near Montblairy are levelled with the ground, and the swamp on which it stood has now become a fruitful field. According to tradition, the castle in question was built by one of the Stewarts, Earls of Buchan; but by which of them, or for what purpose, the writer has been unable to discover. In regard to the ancient chapel, (now also entirely demolished), which stood in its vicinity, tradition is entirely silent. As already stated, Alexander Stewart, Earl of Mar, had the barony of Montblairy, about the year 1400, and, as it is certain that he founded a chaplainry in the Garioch, the chapel in question may, probably, have been something in connection with that foundation. Whilst noting antiquities, it may also be mentioned that about 1000 acres of the poorest soil in the parish bear marks of cultivation at a period very remote; and that in the haughs of Sandlaw, and in the moss to the north of Maunderlea, and elsewhere, trees of considerable size have been frequently found deeply imbedded in the soil. In the haughs of Sandlaw, they have been discovered lying at the depth of 8 or 10 feet from the surface; and in the moss, many of the trees, consisting chiefly of fir, oak, and alder, bear the marks of fire distinctly visible, while others are found with the roots uppermost, near the surface, and with their trunks deeply sunk. In some cases, the root of one tree has been found right above the stump of another.

Modern Buildings.—Under this head, the parish presents little worthy of particular notice. The house of Montblairy, the property of Alexander Morison, Esq. was built in 1791 by the late Major-General Andrew Hay, whose name has been already mentioned. It is a substantial and commodious edifice of three storeys. A considerable addition was made to it in 1825. Within the last two years, it has received a thorough repair, and its outward appearance is now very handsome and tasteful. Its situation amid thriving plantations on a fine sloping bank, on the west side of the Doveran, is particularly delightful, and the large and beautiful quadrangle of offices erected on the wooded rising-ground behind the house, adds not a little to the beauty of the scene, when viewed from the opposite side of the river. The southern façade of this quadrangle is adorned in the centre with an elegant portico, supported by four massy columns of the Ionic order, and surmounted by a corresponding entablature and pediment. An attic storey extends from one end of the building to the other, and the whole is constructed of beautifully dressed granite.

It may be noticed, while on this subject, that in the house of Montblairy, are to be found a few paintings which deserve the attention of the lover, whether of the arts or of history. Of these may be mentioned as the most valuable, either as works of art or as representations of remarkable individuals,—an original portrait of the Admirable Crichton,* transmitted, according to tradition, by Crichton himself from Mantua to the Laird of Frendraught, to whom he was related;—six portraits† by Jameson, including the great Montrose, and the infamous Lady Frendraught, whose cruelty in setting fire to the house of Frendraught is commemorated in a well known popular ballad;—portraits of Peter the Great, and Prince Menzikoff, presented by the Czar himself to Gordon of Auchentoul, who was a General in the Russian service, and wrote

* Mr Tytler mentions, in his life of Crichton, that there are three original portraits in this country of that famed individual; one in the possession of Colonel Crichton, Edinburgh; and another belonging to Mr Stirling of Airth, both of which he has seen, and from the former of which his engraving was taken. The third is the one in question, which Mr Tytler never saw. Judging from the engraving in his book, the present portrait would appear to be much superior to the one made use of by Mr Tytler. It is indeed regarded by judges as a painting of great merit, and is also in an excellent state of preservation. The painter, in so far as we are aware, is unknown.

† These portraits are but in an indifferent state of preservation. The truth is, that, owing to the extremely thin covering which Jameson used, or else to accidental circumstances, the portraits of our Scottish Vandyke (as he has not unjustly been termed) are, in so far as we have had opportunities of seeing them, rapidly hastening to decay.

a life of the above-mentioned illustrious monarch;—a portrait of Bonaparte, when first consul, by Le Fevre;—a singular portrait, 300 years old, of Barbara, Countess of Flanders, painted on a green ground, and supposed from this and other circumstances to be from the pencil of Holbein;—portraits of the Prince of Orange and of the Duke of Alva, &c.

About half a mile below Montblair, on the opposite side of the river, stands the house of Dunlugas, the property of Hans George Leslie, Esq. This house, built of granite, in 1793, consists of three stories, and is substantial, commodious, and elegant. With the exception of Duff House, perhaps no residence in the county of Banff is more delightfully situated. A beautiful and extensive lawn, partially adorned with lofty trees, which are tastefully disposed for effect, stretches in front to the margin of the river, and the ground, rising somewhat abruptly behind, is covered chiefly with thriving firs, whose dark foliage is finely contrasted with the light and more varied tints spread over the scene below.

Mills.—Within the last thirty years, 31 thrashing-mills have been erected in the parish, seven of which are driven by horses, and 24 by water. There are also six meal-mills, one malt-mill, and one lint-mill; but none of these last have been recently erected. The whole of the mills now mentioned are built of clay-slate, the prevailing rock within the parish. There is still one remnant of thirlage in the parish.

III.—POPULATION.

| | | | |
|---|--|-------|------|
| According to Dr Webster the population in 1755 was 1161 | | | |
| Sir John Sinclair, | | 1782, | 1070 |
| Under direction of Parliament, | | 1811, | 991 |
| Do, | Do. 1821, males 521, | 1811, | 991 |
| | | 1811, | 991 |
| Do, | Do. 1821, males 521, females 558, total 1079 | | |
| Do. | Do. 1831, | 633, | 645, |
| | 1841, | | 1278 |
| | | | 1407 |

In order to answer the additional inquiries on this head, the following results have been obtained from an exact survey made in December 1837 :

| | |
|--|------|
| Persons under 15 years of age, | 479 |
| betwixt 15 and 30, | 362 |
| 30 and 50, | 261 |
| 50 and 70, | 150 |
| upwards of 70, | 56 |
| Total population in 1837, | 1308 |
| Bachelors and widowers above 50, | 24 |
| Unmarried women above 45, | 25 |
| Number of families, | 252 |
| Average number of children in each family, | 2 |
| Houses inhabited, | 246 |
| not inhabited, or now building, | 8 |

From the above tables it appears, that, during the fifty-six years which elapsed between 1755 and 1811, there was a remarkable decrease of 170 in the population of the parish, and that during the twenty years which elapsed between 1811 and 1831, there has been an increase of 287. Some years after 1755, the parish began to assume a new aspect, by the introduction of the improved system of husbandry, in the prosecution of which most of the farmers removed their subtenants, and began to farm on a more extensive scale, and to this cause alone is to be ascribed the partial depopulation which took place during the period in question. Since 1811, the number of subtenants removed has been very inconsiderable, and much more than compensated by the introduction of a number of crofters, who are now thickly and extensively scattered over the drearier districts of the parish, and are rapidly bringing into cultivation large tracts of waste land, which, at one time, were scarcely thought susceptible of improvement. Thus both the decrease between 1755 and 1811, and the increase between 1811 and 1831 are easily accounted for.

The yearly average of births for the last seven years is $32\frac{6}{7}$, of which one-thirteenth are illegitimate. The yearly average of marriages for the last seven years is $4\frac{6}{7}$. No register of deaths is kept. The number of persons of independent fortune is 2, viz. the two resident heritors. There are no proprietors of land but the six heritors formerly mentioned. The number of persons insane is 1; fatuous, 1; and blind, 2. The language generally spoken is a coarse mixture of Scotch and English, with an accent broad and drawling; but within the last forty years, considerable improvement in this respect is certainly perceptible. There are no customs, games, or amusements peculiar to this part of the country. As a general fact, indeed, it may be observed, that all ranks and ages seem to have lost much of the relish for what formerly constituted the chief amusements of their forefathers. The habits of the people are in general cleanly, although among the poorer classes, negligence in this respect, particularly in the matter of dress and bed-clothes, is but too frequently met with, and is, no doubt, occasionally the foundation of disease. The ordinary food of the peasantry consists of milk, meal, kail, or colewort, turnips, and potatoes, variously prepared. Among the aged poor, particularly females, tea is used to a great, perhaps to an injurious extent. Beef, mutton, bacon, or fish, seldom forms any part of the labourer's dinner; but it is to be hoped that one or other of these may

yet be more frequently afforded than present circumstances permit. The effects of hard labour, and under-feeding, become very perceptible on the approach of age.

In so far as moral delinquency can be traced from our earliest records, commencing in 1718, it appears that, more than a hundred years ago, when the population of the parish was much less than it is at present, crime of every description was more generally prevalent. Notwithstanding the severe discipline which the church then rigorously enforced, the number of illegitimate births was as great as at the present day, and not unfrequently attended with circumstances of a revolting and aggravated description, which are now unheard of in the parish.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.—Extent of different kinds of land. *

| | |
|--|-------|
| Number of acres of cultivated land, standard imperial measure, | 6955 |
| waste or pasture land, | 3428 |
| under wood, | 750 |
| Total extent of the parish, | 11133 |
| Number of acres improveable waste land, | 1597 |
| waste land, chiefly fitted for planting, | 1831 |
| improved within the last forty years, | 2305 |

There are no undivided commons in the parish, but on the moss of Banff, extending to about 180 acres, about one-half of which is in Alvah, the Earl of Seafield and the Earl of Fife (for a few farms on his estates) have a servitude of firing; but the “bottom” or under strata belongs in property to the Forglen estates, and being on the sandy clay, of a good quality, the ground is brought into cultivation as the moss is exhausted.

The valued rent of the parish is L. 3304, 13s. 4d. Scotch, and the real rental about L. 4065 Sterling. The average rent of arable land is 13s. per imperial acre, or 16s. 5d. per Scotch acre, but, taking into account surplus rents paid by subtenants, the average rent paid for land is 14s. 3d. per imperial acre, or 18s. per Scotch acre.

Until about the year 1754, when the late Earl of Findlater introduced the improved system of husbandry, the agriculture of this

* The extent of land improved within forty years, the extent in different kinds of crop, the quantity of grain produced, and the amount of live-stock, have been obtained from returns made by all the farmers in the parish, who both kindly furnished the information in question, and studied to render it as accurate as possible. One of the estates has been recently surveyed; but of other four the surveys are of older date, and the survey of the remaining one has not yet been completed; so that in our statements of the total extent of the parish, the extent of waste land, &c. extreme accuracy cannot be warranted, although we have reason to think that our statements are pretty nearly correct.

part of the country was of the most wretched description, and in this parish no improvement of any consequence seems to have taken place until about twenty years after;* but since that time, improvement has been rapid and steadily progressive, and the agriculture of the parish may now be said to be conducted on the most approved principles.

Rotation, &c.—A regular rotation of cropping, suited to the nature of the soil, has long been universally adopted. The most common rotations are what are called the five, six, and seven shift courses—the last-mentioned being that which is, at present, most generally followed. Great and increasing attention is also paid to the preparation of the soil by superior ploughing and cleaning, and judicious application of manure. Lime has long been extensively employed, and, excepting a few cases in which it has been injudiciously applied, it has always been attended with the best effects. Several years ago, no fewer than eighty barrels or forty bolls per Scotch acre were laid on the haughs of Sandlaw, at an expense of L. 10 per acre, exclusive of carriage. In consequence of this, the produce was doubled—the fields yielding upwards of seven quarters of wheat, followed next season by 300 stones of hay per Scotch acre. This, however, is an extreme case, arising from the depth and nature of the soil. The greater part of the inferior land of the parish can scarcely receive twenty-five barrels per Scotch acre, without sustaining an injury which the farmers as yet know not how to repair. Within the last four or five years, bone-dust has been introduced as a manure, and with a degree of success which has not yet been satisfactorily explained. We cannot as yet say with certainty which of the ingredients of this manure constitutes the food of plants; for although bones boiled and crushed have been found to afford as good a manure as those in a raw state, and although this circumstance would seem to strengthen the opinion, that it is not the oily matter in the bones that constitutes the manure, yet the fact, that bones so boiled and crushed render the soil apparently as rich with oil as bones in a raw state, forbids us from asserting positively that the phosphate of lime alone constitutes the food of plants in the manure in question.

* The state of agriculture in this parish at the period in question, is incidentally noticed in Souter's "General View of the Agriculture of the County of Banff, drawn up in 1812, for the consideration of the Board of Agriculture." In the same work may also be found descriptions and engravings of a turnip-sowing machine and horse-hoe, the ingenious inventions of the late Mr John Cowie, farmer at Sandlaw, and the first implements of the kind introduced into this part of the country.

But, whatever may be the chemical action of bone-dust, it has here been experimentally and satisfactorily proved that this manure can impart no richness to any kind of soil, unless naturally dry or thoroughly drained. To the soil of this parish, generally, it is well adapted, and has accordingly been almost universally used, although its application has hitherto been exclusively confined to the turnip crops. The quantity here employed varies from twenty-five to thirty bushels per Scotch acre, at a price which has varied from 2s. 4d to 3s. 8d. per bushel; but even a much smaller quantity has sometimes been applied with surprising effect. The best practical farmers are of opinion that thirty bushels of bone-dust, in good fresh land, not exhausted by over-cropping, will produce as good turnips, and stand out the rotation as well as if twenty-five cubic yards and upwards of farm-yard dung had been applied.

Crops raised.—Some years ago, wheat was raised in considerable quantities, but, since the fall in price, this crop has been almost entirely discontinued. Bear and barley are also at present raised to a very limited extent. Bear seems the more suitable of the two to our soil and climate, ripening earlier, and affording a better quality of grain. Chevalier-barley has been tried, but is fast wearing out of repute. Except in very favourable seasons, it is found too late for our climate. Various kinds of oats are sown, according to the nature of the different soils, such as potato, Hopeton, birly, sandy oats, &c. The potato oats are mostly confined to the deep loams. The Hopeton are getting thicker in the husks upon being re-sown. The birly and sandy oats are excellent kinds, and well adapted to our soil and climate, and, as they are little known in the southern counties, their quality may be stated in comparison with the old common oats. They are from eight to ten days earlier, produce more straw, and yield four per cent. of more meal. Their average weight in 1836 was 42 lbs. per bushel. Good sandy oats bring the same price as potato oats. They are also as early, and have a great advantage over them; in producing a much greater quantity of straw, in being less liable to shake, and not apt to give way at the roots. Pease and beans, though once common, are now scarcely sown in the parish. The average number of imperial acres in yearly grain crop is 2846, and the average produce is 9792 imperial quarters,—being an average produce, per imperial acre, of nearly 3 quarters 4 bushels, or per Scotch acre, of nearly 4 quarters 3 bushels. Ten of the best farms on and near the banks of the Doveran produce, on an ave-

rage, 5 quarters 6 bushels per Scotch acre, while some of the best fields, in the same district, have been known to yield occasionally 12 quarters per Scotch acre.

Planting.—The extent planted is 750 acres. In regard to management, although our system appears generally proper, yet, if more attention were paid to pruning and thinning, especially at an early age, it is believed that the trees would be more healthy, and of much larger growth. Several young and thriving plantations of larch might be pointed out, in which it is necessary to cut down at least one-fourth of the trees immediately, in order to preserve them in a healthy state. Young trees are also too frequently suffered to be overpowered by the growth of whins; and in some stations of considerable extent, where the whins have been eradicated, with a view to remedy the evil, the second plantation of trees has been completely destroyed by the rabbits, with which our woods are infested.*

Waste Land Improved.—2278 imperial acres have been improved within the last forty years. By far the greater part of this extent has been reclaimed from thin land previously overgrown with furze and heath. This sort of improvement on large farms would seem, in some cases, to have been over-extended, as a considerable part has either again been allowed to run into its natural state, or has now been planted. The most valuable improvements, however, have been effected by means of draining and ditching marshy ground, and so far have these been carried, that comparatively little now remains to be done in this way. The usual mode of reclaiming waste land of a certain description, is to trench, or trench plough the ground in autumn, allow it to lie in that state during winter, and generally all the following year, and in the second spring to crop it with oats (in which case, turnips follow the next year) or prepare it for green crop. The mossy lands (once of very considerable extent) are improved by drying and burning. The water is drawn off by open ditches and drains. The upper part of the moss, when dry, is burnt, and spread for manure, and lime is applied for raising artificial grass. When the season is dry and early, this mode of culture produces fine crops of oats.

Waste Lands still unimproved.—In the parish there are 3428 imperial acres still unimproved. Planting is, no doubt, the only

* The Earl of Fife has of late years planted thorn hedges, to the extent of nearly eight miles within the parish.

kind of improvement of which the greater part of the waste land is susceptible ; and, accordingly, we are enabled to state, that, on the western district, the property of Lady Abercromby, 306 imperial acres are to be enclosed and planted immediately, with mixed wood, but chiefly with larch, for which both the soil and climate appear most favourable. It is believed that plantations of considerable extent are also contemplated by some of the other proprietors.* After all, however, a great extent will still remain to be improved. In the district mentioned above, 664 imperial acres have been conditioned to be improved, in leases of nineteen years, lately granted. When all the improvements, both those in progress, as well as those contemplated by the proprietor, (viz. straightening the marches, dividing the land into farms of convenient size, improving and planting the wastes, and draining and enclosing the cultivated land), have been completed, this once (and still comparatively) dreary district will assume a highly improved appearance. Similar improvements on the other estates will no doubt follow in course, at least in so far as they are practicable and necessary. Whilst speaking of waste lands, it occurs to the writer, that this species of property might be very advantageously improved by letting, at least a considerable part of it, in small tenements or crofts. Besides the necessity which exists for supplying our surplus population with places of abode and the means of support, there are many parts of the parish of Alvah of a soil so poor and unequal, that no other method seems so well calculated to improve it. Large farms on such a soil are entirely out of the question. Indeed, it is doubtful, if improving a great extent of waste land on one farm, under any circumstances, be a safe speculation to the improver, or of practical utility in any respect. That it has fallen far short, often, of all reasonable expectation, there can be no doubt. But the improvement of waste lands by small tenements is of a more permanent and useful nature ; and, though at first it may not be done to any great degree of perfection, its progress is gradual and sure. A crofter once set down on the poorest land, or land altogether waste, seldom or never fails to make an independent livelihood, and to bring up his family, and give them such an education as fits them for becoming useful members of society. Mechanics that are wanted for the district, such as tailors, shoemakers, masons, wrights, blacksmiths, &c. are all

* Since this report was transmitted, Mr Morison has planted nearly 400 acres on his estate of Montblairy.

sure to thrive on such possessions. Hand-loom weavers from manufacturing towns might also be tried, and if they succeeded, it would be a valuable experiment. The expense of carriage is the only obstacle, but with our present facilities of conveyance, that expense could not be great. In letting waste land, in the manner suggested, the appearance of the country would be greatly improved, and the comfort of the crofters, at the same time, increased, if they were bound to build their houses after some uniform and regular plan, to thatch and harl them when necessary, and to attend to such other cheap and tasteful improvements as their landlords might suggest.

Breeds of Cattle.—The breed of cattle in the parish seems to be the same with, or at least very little different from, the Aberdeenshire breed. The only remarkable alteration that has taken place, for some years back, is the great increase of hummel cattle compared with the number of horned. By the graziers and best judges, this alteration is considered an improvement. About twenty years ago, a different opinion prevailed, and a good show of horns was a point much valued. As to systematic breeding in the way practised in the south, very little has been done in the parish, except that, in choosing bulls and cows, the best and handsomest in the stock are generally selected and reared. The good or bad qualities of the former, however, are not always so much attended to as they ought. If the animal is once reared, he is seldom rejected, however indifferent his qualities may be. Most of the farmers consider systematic breeding as a scheme of too distant and uncertain remuneration, and, leaving this part of their economy to persons of larger means, they are content to avail themselves of the advantages resulting from the experience of others. But although the farmers here are not much given to expensive experiments, yet so greatly do they profit by the experience of others, that they cannot be said to be behind their neighbours in skill and judgment in the management of their stock. The practice generally followed on farms of a moderate size is this: the stock consists of four sets, viz. cows, one year olds, two year olds, and three year olds, of each nearly an equal number. The three year olds are sold off in the spring, or before Whitsunday (generally fat), by which time the calves are ready to take their place, so that about the same number is always kept up. Some sell off their three year olds before winter, and substitute four year olds in their room. Others speculate a little on

grazing. The fat cattle (three year old) on the best farms, will weigh on an average 35 stones Dutch, but over the parish little more than 30 stones; four year olds will weigh from 45 to 50 stones; while a few older cattle are sold annually, weighing 70 stones and upwards. If there be any thing reprehensible in our practice, it is that of overstocking and paying too little attention to the nourishment of calves, and the qualities of bulls.

The propriety of introducing what is called the short-horned, or Teeswater breed, is at present a much agitated question. The experiment has been made, with peculiar propriety, by some of the heritors in this and the neighbouring parishes, but few, if any, of the farmers here have yet followed the example, and probably will not do so, until they are satisfied as to the favourable nature of the result, and can make the experiment at less expense. The prevailing opinion is, that, in crossing the short-horned with the native breed, the race will degenerate, and at last leave in the country a race retaining all the bad qualities of both, with few of the good, and thus destroying the purity of both. In Aberdeenshire, where the experiment has been longer tried, it has been found that upon good and sheltered land, especially if enclosed, one cross betwixt the Teeswater bull and the Aberdeenshire cow answers extremely well, coming to a greater weight and earlier maturity than the native breed; but upon inferior land and open field, it is generally thought they never can supplant the native race. Their flesh cannot at all compete with prime Scotch in the London market, and the Aberdeen butchers consider them, even when crosses, as very inferior, and in fact would never wish to see them on their stalls.*

Horses.—For twenty years back, a considerable number of our best horses have been brought from the south; but this practice is now generally abandoned, and in some cases the trade has been reversed—a circumstance affording pretty strong proof of the improvement of the breed. The original breed of horses in the parish was peculiarly hardy and durable, but not equal to the present in point of bone and symmetry. The agricultural societies in the neighbourhood have, for a good many years, been giving premiums annually for the best horses, which have generally been gained by horses from the south; and, as our horses are usually descended from these itinerant prize-winners, the old breed of the

* Since this report was drawn up, the short-horned breed has been introduced to a considerable extent on several of the best farms in the parish.

parish is in a great measure extinct. This change is by some considered to have been carried too far, as having a tendency to produce a race of horses of a size disproportioned to the work. The price of a good horse at present will vary according to his quality from L.15 to L.35.

*Sheep.**—Owing to the extensive improvement of waste and pasture land, comparatively few sheep are now reared in the parish. At present no attention seems to be paid to the breed, one flock frequently consisting of half a dozen different kinds. The flock at Sandlaw of the pure Leicester breed, famed for their size and the fineness of their wool, is perhaps the only exception. Besides the small number (679) at present reared in the parish, it may be noted that, for the last five or six years, large flocks from the Highlands come here for winter pasture, on the approach of snow on their native hills. The number thus pasturing at present is 3700 of the Highland, Strathdown, and Lanark breeds. The total amount received for the winter's pasture does not exceed L.80.

Live-Stock.—From an accurate survey made in December last, we are enabled to state the average number of the different kinds of live-stock as follows: 241 work horses; 101 other horses of every age and description; 22 work-oxen; 558 cows;—541 one year olds;—401 two year olds;—271 three year olds;—76 four year olds; 679 sheep; 191 swine; and 1 goat.

The following table exhibits nearly the annual amount received from sales of live-stock now generally shipped at Banff for the London market:

| | | | |
|--|--------|-------|-------|
| 271 three year olds, average weight 30 stone Dutch, at 6s. | L.2439 | 0 | 0 |
| 76 four year olds, do. 40 do. at 7s. | 1064 | 0 | 0 |
| 8 older cattle, do. 60 do. at 7s. | 168 | 0 | 0 |
| 130 two year olds, valued at L.4 a head, | - | 520 | 0 0 |
| 226 sheep, valued at L.1 a head, | - | 226 | 0 0 |
| 191 swine, valued at L.1 a head, | - | 191 | 0 0 |
| A few sales of other cattle and horses, about | - | 300 | 0 0 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | L.4908 | 0 | 0 |

It ought perhaps to be noted, that, within the last forty years, great improvement has taken place in all kinds of handicraft, our masons, wrights, smiths, shoemakers, &c. being generally very superior workmen.

Leases, &c.—These extend here to nineteen years. Although farm-buildings are more substantial and comfortable than they were forty years ago, there is still ample room for improvement.

* Mr Morrison of Montblairry has of late years introduced a very large flock of sheep of the most approved English breeds.

Inclosures.—Although something in this way is done annually, yet this species of improvement may yet be said to be in its infancy.

Produce.—Average gross amount of raw produce. *

| | | | | |
|--|---|---------|---|---|
| 8812 quarters oats, at L.1, 3s. 2d. | - | L.10207 | 0 | 0 |
| 980 do. bear, at L.1, 8s. 7d. | - | 1400 | 0 | 0 |
| 121 Scotch acres, potatoes, at L.8, | - | 968 | 0 | 0 |
| 674 do. turnips, at L.5, 10s. | - | 3707 | 0 | 0 |
| 374 imperial acres hay, 100 stone per acre, at 6d. | - | 935 | 0 | 0 |
| 2500 do. pasture, at L.1, | - | 2500 | 0 | 0 |
| Winter pasture for 3700 sheep, | - | 80 | 0 | 0 |
| Fishings on the Doveran, about | - | 40 | 0 | 0 |

| | | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|---------|---|---|
| Total gross amount of raw produce, | - | L.19837 | 0 | 0 |
|------------------------------------|---|---------|---|---|

Distillery.—About twelve years ago, a distillery was erected on the estate of Montblair, which is still in full and active operation. The extensive premises connected with this work are most complete and convenient, and being situated on an airy and romantic ridge of rock, and abundantly supplied with the purest water, the whisky produced is of first rate excellence, and greatly celebrated for its genuine flavour. This distillery was erected at an expense of L.4000, is capable of distilling 40,000 gallons annually, and in size ranks among the largest north of the Tay. Mr Alexander Scott is proprietor of the works.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Means of Communication, &c.—There are no villages or markets within the parish. Banff, at the distance of two miles from the northern extremity, is the nearest market-town. The post-offices at Banff, Abercherder, and Turriff, lie at nearly equal distances from the extreme points of the parish. The turnpike road leading from Banff to Huntly extends within the parish to the distance of four miles and a half, and the turnpike branching off from this at the Slacks of Tippetty, enters the parish of Forglen on the moors above Montblair, at the distance of four miles. To these may be added one mile of new turnpike leading from Bur-reldales, in the direction of Forglen House, making in all an extent of nine miles and a half of turnpike roads within the parish.

* The rates at which the grain is calculated in this table, is the average of Banffshire fiar prices, for common oats with fodder, and for best bear with fodder, from 1829 to 1835 inclusive. No pasture is let for grazing in the parish, so that the extent stated in the tables is to be considered as the pasture on which the farmers rear their own stock.

In writing the preceding remarks on the subject of agriculture, the writer has consulted the opinions of the most intelligent practical farmers in the parish, and has received from them many lengthened written communications, the substance of which could only be presented in a very abridged and imperfect shape.

The parish is also intersected in different directions, by the following commutation roads, viz. road from Portsoy to Turriff, two miles and a half; road from Banff to Turriff, by Sandlaw, Auchinbadie, &c. four miles and three-quarters; branch to the Henford, three-quarters of a mile; road from Banff to Turriff passing through Inverichny and Dunlugas, four miles; besides several others of smaller extent, amounting in all to nearly seventeen miles of commutation roads. The whole of these roads, with the exception of about four miles and a half, have been made within the last forty years, and are at present in good repair. No public carriages travel at present in the parish, although both a coach and a car have been tried at different times, on the road leading to Huntly. On the above-mentioned roads, no fewer than sixteen bridges have been erected within the last forty years, at an expense of about L.730. When the last Statistical Account was written, the only bridges connected with the parish were those at Blacktown, Alvah, and Denmill. The first only stands wholly within the parish; the other two unite Alvah with King-Edward.

Ecclesiastical State.—The church, a plain, substantial edifice, at present in good repair, and containing free sittings for 600 persons, was erected in 1792, and is somewhat inconveniently situated near the northern angle of the parish, at a distance varying from nearly four to six miles, from the extreme points in the south-west, south, and south-east. The more remote portions of the population, however, are conveniently accommodated in the neighbouring churches of King-Edward, Turriff, Forglen, and the Ord chapel of Ease, recently erected in the parish of Banff, near the confines of the parish of Alvah.

The manse was built in 1764, and repaired in 1815. The glebe is between six and seven acres in extent, and may be valued at from L.20 to L.30 per annum. The amount of the minister's stipend is 13 chalders, the one half meal, and the other half barley, payable in money according to fiars prices.

The Established Church is the only place of public worship in the parish. The people are, in general, regular in their attendance, and about 400 communicate annually. There are only 5 Episcopalians, 1 Seceder, 2 Baptists, and 4 Catholics within the parish. No Society for religious purposes has yet been established. The probable average amount of church collections yearly for religious and charitable objects is about L.38.

Education, &c.—There are five schools in the parish. The parochial is the only school which has any endowment, with the exception of one taught by a female, who receives L. 2 a year from Lady Abercromby of Forglen. English reading, grammar, writing, mathematics, geography, Latin, and occasionally Greek and French, are taught in the parochial school. In other two schools conducted by male teachers, the branches taught are reading, writing, arithmetic, and grammar. In the two schools conducted by females, sewing and knitting are taught along with the elements of English reading. The number at present attending the parochial school is 63. The annual amount of fees varies from L. 8 to L. 20 according to the circumstances of the parents. The present scale of fees is much too high for the labouring-classes. A farm-servant, whose yearly income does not exceed L. 10, cannot afford to pay annually L. 3 for the education of five or six children. A gradation of fees might be introduced all over the country, with considerable advantage. The numbers attending each of the other two male teachers, vary from 30 to 40; the scale of fees is much the same as that of the parochial teacher; and the amount received by each is about L. 12 or L. 13 per annum. The number attending each of the female teachers seldom exceeds 12 or 15, and the fees, varying from 1s. 6d. to 2s. 6d. per quarter, may amount annually to about L. 5 to each. The salary of the parochial teacher is L. 30, with a contingent interest in the Dick Bequest. He has also the legal accommodations. Besides the above-mentioned schools, a Sabbath school has been taught in the parochial school-room, for more than three years, at the season in which regular attendance can be obtained. The number of Sabbath scholars has varied from 30 to 65. There seems to be scarcely an individual in the parish upwards of fifteen years of age who cannot read, and none between six and fifteen, who cannot both read and write. The people begin to set a high value on education, and its corresponding effect on moral conduct is perceptible.

Savings Banks have been established for several years in some of the neighbouring parishes, in some of which considerable investments have been made by the labouring-classes from Alvah, although the writer has been unable to ascertain the amount.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—In 1764, the average number of enrolled poor was 12, and the average yearly allowance to each

was 9s. 4d. In 1792, the average number of enrolled poor was 32, and the average yearly allowance to each was L. 1, 1s. 3d. In 1836 and 1837, the average number of enrolled poor was 21,* and the average yearly allowance to each L. 2, 1s. Average amount of weekly collections in one year, L. 26; do. of penalties, L. 5, 5s.; average proceeds from mortcloth, 16s.; interest of L. 120, capital at 5 per cent. L. 6; do. of L. 55, at 3 per cent. L. 1, 13s. sale of effects of deceased poor, L. 2; donations from heritors, varying from L. 5 to L. 15, L. 10; total yearly amount of poor's funds, L. 51, 14s.; average amount distributed to enrolled poor, L. 43, 1s.; balance, L. 8, 13s.

Out of the above balance, L. 4 are paid to the clerk and precentor; L. 1, 12s. to the church officer; and the remainder is distributed among persons in occasional distress, who are not on the roll, or is laid out in defraying the funeral charges of the deceased poor, or other incidental expenses.

Besides the ordinary church collections, amounting on an average to L. 26 a year, we have extraordinary collections for charitable or religious purposes, varying, according to circumstances, from L. 1, 10s. to L. 5, 5s. During the eighteen months preceding Martinmas last, our collections in the church for the General Assembly's four schemes, for the Aberdeen Infirmary, and the Destitute Highlanders, amounted to L. 17, 16s. 10d. In peculiar cases of distress, the relief of which might press heavy on the funds of the poor, recourse is occasionally had to subscriptions in the parish, which have always been attended with the desired result. For two years past, the poor's funds have been relieved of an incidental burden of about L. 10, 10s. a-year, by an annual subscription from the heritors.

Having no fund for the poor arising from benefactions sufficiently large to discourage industry, or excite avarice, applications for parochial relief are generally made with great reluctance. The poor think themselves degraded by such applications.

Inns.—There is at present only one inn or tavern in the parish.

Fuel.—Peats, although not so abundant and excellent as formerly, are obtained in those parts of the parish which are farthest from the sea. In a few cases, peats are obtained from neighbour-

* Out of 21 paupers on the roll, 19 are females. Could no sort of remunerative employment be suggested for this distressed class of the community?

ing parishes. To those who have a privilege of firing, peats cost from 1s. to 1s. 3d. per cart load, exclusive of carriage; to others they cost from 2s. to 2s. 6d. English coals are procured at Banff at from 1s. 0½d. to 1s. 2d. per imperial barrel.

Drawn up by the incumbent while parochial schoolmaster of Alvah, in 1837. Revised February 1842.

PARISH OF FORDYCE.*

PRESBYTERY OF FORDYCE, SYNOD OF ABERDEEN.

THE REV. JOHN INNES, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name, Boundaries, &c.—THIS parish appears, from the earliest times, to have borne its present name. The most satisfactory account of its derivation is that which derives it from the two Gaelic words, *Fuar* (cold) and *Deas* (south); so that Fuar-deas, or, as it is now commonly written, Fordyce, would signify “a cold south.” This derivation is very descriptive of the character of the parish,—the south part of it chiefly consisting of low, wet, or moorish lands, far inferior, both in point of productiveness and climate, to that which lies along the sea-coast. That the name is of Celtic origin is farther evident from the etymology of various other places in the parish, which are unquestionably to be traced to such a root, such as *Auchmore*, the great field or declivity; *Kindrought* or *Keandrochit*, the head or end of the bridge; *Tillynaught*, the turn or ridge of the hill; *Glassaugh*, the gray haugh; *Durn*, round like a clenched fist, &c.

The parish, including the whole of the *quoad sacra* parish of Portsoy, is of a quadrangular form, irregular, however, and approaching nearly to that of a triangle. Its greatest breadth, in a straight line along the sea-coast, is 6 miles; its least, at the southern extremity, 2 miles; its greatest length, from the mouth of the Burn of Boyne to the top of the Knock Hill, 8 miles; and its least, from Logie Head to the same point, 7 miles. The num-

* Drawn up by the Rev. Alexander Reid, Minister of Portsoy.

ber of square miles in the whole parish is about 28. It is bounded on the north, by the Moray Frith; on the west, by Cullen, Rathven, and Deskford; on the south, by Grange and Ordiquhill; and on the east, by Ordiquhill and Boyndie.

The general appearance of the parish is irregular, and presents considerable variety of hill and dale. In its centre rise the hills of Durn and Fordyce, extending continuously, and in a crescent form, from north-east to south-west; while the Knock Hill, in the south, rears its head still more majestically, and is seen as a landmark from a considerable distance at sea. The height of the Knock is from 1200 to 1400 feet above the level of the sea, and that of Durn about 700 feet. On the top of the former, there is a bank of peat-moss, extending to the depth of ten or twelve feet, of comparatively little value, from its inaccessibility to carts.

The coast is rather bold and rocky. It is intersected by two bays, that of Portsoy, where there is a safe and commodious harbour for ships, and that of Sandend, where there is a sandy beach of about half a mile in length, with a small creek at the Redhyth Point, in which vessels of very light tonnage occasionally moor. The principal headlands are the East and West Heads, so called from their relative positions to Portsoy, and Logie Head, at the western extremity of the parish. There are several caves, which run more or less into the rocks; but none of them are of any great extent. The chief of these are, the Dove Cave, Kitty's Cave, the Bow Cave, and Cloutty's Cave, between Portsoy and Sandend, and Findlater Cave close by the old Castle of the same name.

Meteorology.—The temperature of the parish, from its contiguity to the sea, is perhaps less variable, upon the whole, than that of others possessing a different exposure. But, from its very position in this respect, it is more exposed to the winds blowing between the north-west and north-east points of the compass, than parishes lying in the interior of the country. The climate is very salubrious.

Hydrography.—The only streams of any importance are, the Burn of Boyne, forming the eastern boundary of the parish,—the Burn of Durn, and the Burn of Fordyce, the former emptying itself into the sea at Portsoy, and the latter into the bay at Sandend. In the neighbourhood of Portsoy, there are several springs of a chalybeate character. John Legg's well is the most famed in this respect, and is resorted to in the summer months by

many of the inhabitants, as well as by strangers, who come from the country for change of air, and the benefit of sea-bathing. There was formerly a loch called Soy, lying in the neighbourhood of, and giving name to, Portsoy; but it is not now larger than a mill-pond, and has, for many years, been converted to this useful purpose.

*Geology and Mineralogy.**—This parish has been long known to afford to the geologist much that is interesting. Dr Hutton, the talented founder of the Plutonic school, early drew attention to it; and Professor Jameson of Edinburgh, in his volume of “Mineralogical Travels,” has detailed, at considerable length, some of its most important geological phenomena. Serpentine is the rock which has given to it its chief celebrity, and which is known as an ornamental stone, not merely over Britain, but on the continent. In the palace of Versailles, it forms some of the chimney-pieces, and is known by the name of Scottish marble,—the name which it most commonly receives from the parishioners. It is now, however, seldom wrought on a large scale; but there is an intelligent lapidary in Portsoy (Mr Abraham Clark) who forms it still into a variety of small ornamental pieces, such as obelisks, urns, &c. and who always keeps a large collection of minerals for the inspection of the curious.

From the celebrity of this parish, in a geological view, we shall notice, as fully as possible, the rocks which occur along the coast, commencing at the mouth of the Burn of Durn at Portsoy, and advancing westward. The first rock which presents itself is a mass of serpentine, about 300 feet thick, passing into a syenite, which, with a few strata of hornblende, and limestone with granite veins, forms the only rock, till we arrive at the other side of the harbour. The syenite is in general large, granular, and, in a few instances, contains crystals of hypersthene. The granite is also large and granular, and seems to be synchronous with the syenite. We come next to a bed of white marble, of no value, however, as an ornamental stone. It is succeeded by a mass of white felspar rock, very compact, which passes in many places into serpentine. An alternating system of mica-slate and quartz rock, with a bed of limestone, now presents itself, and forms all the coast cliff up to the chief deposit of serpentine. The predominating qualities of

* The writer begs here to acknowledge his obligations to Robert J. H. Cunningham, Esq. author of *Essay on the Geology of the Lothians, &c.* who kindly supplied the materials of this article, after a minute survey of the parish in 1839.

this serpentine, the greatest breadth of which seems to be about 500 yards, are red and green ; and, by the different modes of their association, are produced those numerous and beautiful varieties of this rock which have been so universally admired. Veins of precious or noble serpentine (so called from its translucency) frequently occur, also others of calcareous spar, asbestos, amianthus, and, in a very few instances, hydrate of magnesia. Diallage, schiller spar, and magnetic iron ore, are also to be found in small quantities.

As we proceed along the coast, we find strata of mica-slate and clay-slate, with occasional veins of quartz, constituting almost the whole line to the lime-kilns of Redhyth ; near to which gneiss (a rock which is but of rare occurrence in Banffshire), presents itself for a short distance, and contains numerous crystals of precious garnet. Adjoining to this is to be seen a small deposit of red sandstone conglomerate, which rests unconformably upon the older rocks, and, like the other red sandstones and red conglomerates of Scotland, is entirely composed of fragments derived from them. The geognostical position of this rock is the bottom of the great independent coal formation ; and a well exposed junctional section is afforded near the coast. Large veins of calcareous spar are at some points to be detected. Between Redhyth and Cra-thie Point, we meet with various large beds of crystalline limestone. It is in general connected with clay-slate ; but, from the fissured state of the strata, appears to be of little value as an ornamental stone. At the old Castle of Findlater is to be seen a quartz rock of rather an interesting character, while, between this and Logie Head, many other well-marked examples of quartz and mica slate are to be found.

Returning to the mouth of the burn of Durn, and proceeding eastward, we first meet eccentrically contorted strata of mica-slate, containing a few beds of marble ; so mixed, however, with argillaceous earth, as to make them useless for ornamental purposes. Stratified rocks of the same general description form the whole coast to the mouth of the burn of Boyne, where a large mass of distinctly stratified limestone comes into view, and, in some places, shows most interesting contortions. It may be traced a considerable way up the bed of the stream, and forms a part of one of those great bands of limestone, which traverse the county in a north-east and south-west direction, and which, in many instances, may be followed by the geologist into

the wilds of the Grampian hills. From the appearance of this limestone, there is some reason to believe, that were it quarried to sufficient depth, it might be of value, and used as a marble. The most interesting rock, however, on this side, is a beautiful display of graphic granite, so called from its exhibiting when polished, characters in many respects resembling those of the Hebrew alphabet. It lies half way between Portsoy and the mouth of the Boyne; and, next to the serpentine, has made this place so well known to the geologist. No one having the opportunity should neglect to visit this rare and interesting rock. Imbedded in it are found in some places large crystals of schorl, and also mica in firm radiating masses.

Throughout the interior of the parish, there is but little opportunity for minute geology; there being an almost universal and thick covering of alluvium to obscure the subjacent rocks. Careful examination, however, shows that the most of the interior is composed of those variations of trap, which are comprehended under the names of common greenstone, syenitic greenstone, hypersthene greenstone, and augitic greenstone. Quartz rock forms the round-backed eminence of the Durn hill. It is distinctly stratified, and is inclined at a high angle. Boulders of syenite, of considerable size, are to be found around the foot of the Durn and Knock hills, and in some other parts of the parish. The soil is partly a strong clay, partly a clay loam, and partly a light loam; and generally highly productive along the sea-coast, but cold and wet towards the south.

Zoology.—This parish is not distinguished, at present, by any of the rarer species of animals. Its general breed of cattle is a cross between the old Banffshire and the Buchan humble breed. The pure Banffshire is now seldom to be seen.* The sheep are of the Cheviot breed, with a few of the small black-faced.

* In 1770 a remarkable murrain broke out amongst black-cattle in this parish, to which it may not be uninteresting here to refer. It is still remembered by some of the oldest inhabitants, and is spoken of as "the Plague." It is said to have been imported into Portsoy, by means of some tainted hay brought over in a vessel from Holland, (where it was raging at the time,) and given as food to the cattle here. It produced great excitement in the place, and soon attracted the attention of the government, who, to prevent the contagion from spreading, sent down orders to have all the black-cattle, within a certain distance, immediately slaughtered on their showing any symptoms of the disease. The owners, however, were indemnified by the government, according to the value set upon their cattle by judges appointed for that purpose. The place of slaughter is still pointed out; and for a season, a party of soldiers was stationed at Portsoy to enforce a kind of quarantine in regard to all the cattle connected with it. The first appearance of the disease was heaviness, watering of the eyes, and heat in the horns. This was succeeded by flux, which soon terminated in death.

There is not only an abundant supply of all the common kinds of sea fish, but salmon is to be had regularly in its season; there being a bag-net station for this fishing near the mouth of the burn of Boyne. At a former period, lobster-fishing was carried on to a considerable extent, by the fishermen here, as well as along the whole of this side of the Frith to Inverness; and small vessels visited the different stations on the coast, received the fish that were caught, and then proceeded with them to the London market. But nothing has now, for many years, been done in this respect, beyond a few being caught by aged fishermen, who dispose of them in the place. Crabs are found in considerable numbers; and it may be stated that, during the winter of 1838, when provisions were so high, the children of several of the poorer families derived an important part of their aliment from the common periwinkle, which is to be found so plenteously on our shores.

Botany.—One of the features of the parish most likely to strike the eye of a traveller is the want of wood. This defect, however, is in the way of being remedied. In the east part, the Earl of Seafield has a young thriving plantation of considerable extent; while a large space of waste land, contiguous to it, and lying between the burn of Boyne and the Huntly turnpike, has been enclosed and planted during the past year. The other proprietors have been adding to the ornament of the parish, and the improvement of their own properties in like manner.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

There are no written records of the early history of this parish. It would seem, at least, to have been sufficiently large, comprehending originally Ordiquhill, Deskford, and Cullen. When the disjunction of these took place cannot be positively ascertained. From a decret of stipend for Fordyce in 1618, it appears to have been subsequent to that period.

Land-owners.—There are three landed proprietors, the Earl of Seafield; Sir Robert Abercromby of Birkenbog; and Arthur Duff Abercromby, Esq. of Glassaugh,—the last of whom only is resident in the parish. There are plans of the different estates in the hands of their respective proprietors. Those of the Earl of Seafield are of the oldest date, some of them not having been renewed since 1771. The last plan of the Glassaugh estate was made out in 1821; while a new survey of Birkenbog was completed only two or three years ago.

Eminent Men.—Walter Ogilvie of Redhyth and Mr George Smith,

to whom the cause of education here has been so much indebted, were both natives of this parish. The former, in 1678, bequeathed the lands of Redhyth and Meikle and Little Bogton, all within the parish, to establish bursaries at the parochial school, and at King's College, Aberdeen. They are called, from their founder, "the Ogilvie or Redhyth Bursaries." The number of bursars at the school is now, from 12 originally, raised to 17; the annual value of each bursary being $8\frac{1}{2}$ bolls of meal, L.1, 16s. 8d. in money, and L.1 for school-fees to the teacher. The term of the bursary is five years. The number at King's College, from 8 originally, is now also 17; and the annual value of each bursary is L. 17 Sterling.* Mr George Smith, who was born in the village of Fordyce, having realized a considerable fortune abroad, bequeathed the greater part of it for the purposes of education in his native parish. He died on his way home from the East Indies in the end of last century. The establishment on his foundation commenced in 1801. There are at present nine bursars, each of them receiving L.25 a year for board, clothing, and education. They are all boarded with the teacher, who receives from the same fund L. 40 of annual salary, besides having had provided for him an excellent house and garden. The parochial schoolmaster has hitherto held the situation of teacher to "Smith's Bursars;" but the magistrates of Banff, who are the patrons and trustees of the establishment, have it in their power to appoint one distinct from this. The term of these bursaries is likewise five years. In addition to the above bequest, Mr Smith left L. 25 a year to the parish minister, for taking a superintendence of the youth placed upon the endowment; and also L. 1000 to aid in erecting an infirmary or hospital, either in Banff or Fordyce.

The Rev. James Stuart, late rector of Georgetown and All-Saints, South Carolina, left, besides other legacies for the advancement of education, L. 1200, to endow one bursary at the school of Fordyce, and another at that of Banff, to be enjoyed by boys of the name of Stuart. These bursaries commenced in 1810, and the presbytery of Fordyce presents to them. There are also other two small bursaries, amounting together to about L. 9, founded by the late James Murray in Buttery tack, and to which the kirk-session of Fordyce presents.

In consequence of the distinguished advantages thus possessed in regard to education, many who received the elements of

* The Earl of Seafield is patron of them all.

their instruction in this parish, have afterwards acquitted themselves in a most creditable manner in the world, or are, at this moment, honourably filling stations of an important kind. Sir James Clark, presently Physician to Her Majesty, and Dr John Forbes, chief editor of the British and Foreign Medical Review, &c., and now Physician Extraordinary to his Royal Highness Prince Albert, were both educated at the parochial school.

Parochial Registers.—The registers of discipline have been regularly kept since 1658, and of baptisms since 1665. The marriage register does not commence till 1723, since which time it appears to have been regular. The following notice of the ministers of Fordyce, since the Reformation, is taken from one of these registers :—

Mr Gilbert Gairdn, it is said, “ seldom went to the pulpit without his sword, for fear of the Papists.” Mr Patrick Darg was minister for sixty-three years. David Abercromby, deposed for drinking. William Blair, admitted in 1675, and transported to Aberdeen in 1680. James Stuart came from Inveraven in May 1681, and died in three years. Alexander Gallie came from Deskford in 1684, and died in 1715. Alexander Irvine came from Cullen in 1716, and died in 1746. James Lawtie, ordained August 1747, and died August 24th 1791. Alexander Humphrey, ordained March 8th 1792, and died February 13th 1832. John Innes, present incumbent, admitted from Ordiqhill September 6, 1832.

The following is a list of the Presbyterian ministers in Portsoy from its first erection into a preaching station in 1741 :—viz. Mr John Yule, Mr James Ogilvie, Mr Thomas Mitchel, Mr Robert Ogilvie, Mr Burnet, Mr Thomas Steel, Mr Walter Chalmers, Mr Abercromby Gordon, Mr James Kelly, Mr William Grant, Mr Daniel Cruickshank, and Mr Alexander Reid, the present incumbent, who was admitted June 18, 1829.

Antiquities.—The remains of the encampment on the hill of Durn are still visible ; it would appear to have been originally of considerable extent ; and is most probably to be referred to the time of the Danish invasions. There are other relics which seem plainly to show that this parish had been the scene of repeated hostile feuds ; some of them perhaps arising from the incursion of foreign enemies, and others from the not more welcome visits of Highland freebooters, descending on the richer plains. In addition to what is stated in proof of this in the former Statistical

Account, it may be mentioned that a tumulus was opened at Auchmore in 1828, in which was found an earthen urn, containing ashes. The urn was placed in a kind of rude coffin, formed of stones laid together for that purpose. This and the large mound raised over it would seem to indicate, that it had been a person of distinction whose ashes had been deposited here. And there is reason to believe that they may have been those of some warlike chief, who had fallen in an engagement, of which there is a tradition that it took place near to the spot. The above urn is now preserved in the museum at Banff. Within a mile of the same place, on the brae of Roseacre, in the immediate vicinity of Portsoy, no fewer than five urns have been found, containing ashes and bones. Two of them were dug up about the beginning of this century, and the other three only a few years ago, when that part of the field was being trenched over to improve its productiveness. They were all, however, broken by the workmen; but the fragments, which are still preserved, show that they would have been about twelve inches in diameter, and of a proportional depth. And in September of last year, there was turned up by the plough, on the farm of Ley, another urn, containing some remains of a similar kind. It was found placed upon a stone with a cover on the top, but was also broken. It is now likewise in the Banff museum.

The old Castle of Findlater is deserving of notice amongst the antiquities of this parish. It is the most interesting ruin within it. It stands on a peninsulated rock on the sea shore, and still evidences, that, in its day, it had been a place of considerable importance. Leslie, Bishop of Ross, describes it (although, from the tactics of modern warfare, we suspect that the description would not now hold true) as “*castrum, loci natura ita munitum, ut inexpugnabile videatur.*” Its outer, or north wall, is so built as to correspond with the face of the rock; and its windows, which appear to have been chiefly on that side, would thus look into the sea. The lower apartments, some of which are partly excavated out of the solid rock, are strongly vaulted with stone arches; and the south side of the building, which was the only one exposed to danger, appears to have consisted of a large mass of dead wall, protected by a fosse and drawbridge. Beyond this, and at about the distance of 100 yards, there had been another fosse and rampart, as an outwork to defend the castle; leaving an intermediate space large enough to exercise a considerable number of men. The stones of the buildings, which were in the

south-west corner of this area, and were probably used as stables and storehouses, have now been almost entirely removed for agricultural purposes, on the adjoining farm. The dovecot, however, on the top of the hill, still stands in a tolerable state of preservation, and continues to be used for its original purpose.

Sir Walter Ogilvie got leave, in the 18th of James II., or A. D. 1455, to fortify his Castle of Findlater with a tower and fortalice, and all other necessities for a place of strength. It would appear to have been regularly occupied till towards the end of the reign of James VI., when it became less necessary for our nobles to seek their safety within the walls of their castles. Findlater, at that time in the possession of John Gordon, son of the Earl of Huntly, was one of the places which refused to receive Queen Mary on her royal visit to the north; and a party of six score of soldiers, sent out by the Queen to force a surrender, were one night, while lying at Cullen, surprised by him, and all of them either disarmed or slain. It soon, however, returned into the hands of its original possessors. There is an interesting tradition prevalent in the district, connected with its ceasing to be a family residence. While the lady of the castle, it is said, was one day standing at an open window holding an infant son in her arms, the child suddenly leapt from her hold, and, falling amidst the foaming waves and rocks beneath, immediately perished. The associations connected with this melancholy event were such as to make the place to be immediately after deserted. The district of Findlater, from which the castle takes its name, furnished the title of Earl of Findlater to a succession of noble proprietors. The title was first conferred on James, second Lord Ogilvie of Deskford in 1683, and continued to be enjoyed by the male heirs of his body till it became extinct in James seventh Earl, who died on the continent in 1811. The estates, together with the Seafield titles, then came into the possession of the present family through the line of a collateral female branch; Lady Margaret, eldest daughter of James fifth Earl of Findlater, having married Sir Ludovic Grant of Grant,* grandfather of the present Earl.

* May not the name Findlater be traced to a French derivation? *Fin-la-terre*, "the land's end," is an appellation that is at least descriptive of its locality, bounded as it is by the sea, and projecting farthest into it on this part of the coast. This derivation is, moreover, borne out by the circumstance of Findlater, according to the earliest accounts that we have of it, having been first in the possession of a family of the name of Sinclair. Now Sinclair is none other than the French name *St Clair* (*de sancto Claro*); and Douglas in his *Peerage* tells us that a family of this name came over with William the Conqueror from Normandy into Britain, and that two branches of that family settled in Scotland in the twelfth century.

Modern Buildings.—The present parish church of Fordyce was built in 1804, and of Portsoy in 1815. A new Roman Catholic Chapel was erected in 1829, and an Episcopalian one in the course of last year; both within the town of Portsoy. The mansion-house of Glassaugh has also been lately much enlarged and improved, and now forms one of the neatest and most commodious residences in this part of the country.

III.—POPULATION.

The population of this parish, as given by the census taken in 1755, was 3212; in 1782, it had risen to 3425; in 1801, it amounted only (if the census has been given correctly) to 2747; in 1821, it had again reached to 3245; and in 1831, it was 3364, of whom 1578 were males, and 1786 females. The population in the towns and villages in 1831 was 2023, and in the country district, 1341. The yearly average of births for the last seven years is 70; of marriages, 20. No register of deaths has hitherto been kept.

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|------|------|
| The average number of persons | under 15 years of age, | . | 1231 |
| | between 15 and 70, | . | 1948 |
| | above 70, | . | 185 |
| Population in 1841, | . | 1722 | |

There are only two families of independent fortune at present resident in the parish. All the proprietors have a rental far above the yearly value of L. 50.

| | | | | | |
|---|-----|---|---|---|-----|
| The number of families in the parish, | . | . | . | : | 761 |
| Average number of children in each, | . | . | . | . | 4½ |
| Number of unmarried men, bachelors or widowers, upwards of 50 years of age, | 77 | | | | |
| women, including widows, upwards of 45 years of age, | 191 | | | | |

There are 3 persons insane; 2 occasionally so; 3 fatuous and dumb; 1 dumb; and 1 deaf. With regard to the last mentioned person, it is worthy of notice, that though his hearing, which he had in his youth, is now quite gone, he can still hold a degree of converse with others, by marking the movements of their lips, and will understand most persons to a certain extent, provided they speak with deliberation, and allow him to look them in the face.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.

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| The number of imperial acres in the parish, which are either cultivated or occasionally in tillage, | . | . | . | . | 9306 |
| The number which never have been cultivated, and which remain constantly waste or in pasture, | . | . | . | . | 5960 |
| The number of the latter that might be profitably cultivated, | . | . | . | . | 670 |
| in a state of undivided common, | . | . | . | . | 1500 |
| under wood, | . | . | . | . | 1234 |

Total number of imperial acres, 18670

Wood.—The general kinds of trees are, Scotch fir, larch, and ash. With the exception, indeed, of a small thriving plantation of the last, in the vicinity of the old Castle of the Boyne, the Scotch fir and larch are by far the most predominant description. The plantations are duly cared for, and the young woods regularly thinned from time to time, as they require. These thinnings, however, do not realize much to the proprietor.

Rent, Wages, &c.—The average rent of arable land in the parish, per imperial acre, is 16s. 3d. Grazing an ox or cow for the summer may cost from L. 2, 10s. to L. 3; and the keep for the winter, a like sum. Grazing a full-grown sheep for a year, 7s. 6d. The ordinary rate of a labourer's wages per day in summer, without victuals, is from 1s. 6d. to 1s. 10d., and in winter, from 1s. to 1s. 4d.; a mason's from 2s. 6d. to 3s.; a wright's from 2s. to 2s. 6d.; a slater's from 2s. to 2s. 6d., with a proportional rate for the winter. When victuals are afforded, sixpence is the usual deduction made from these rates. Male farm-servants (1st class) receive, exclusive of board, from L. 6 to L. 7 in the half year; 2d class, from L. 4 to L. 5; and female servants from L. 2 to L. 2, 5s. Flax raised in the parish for domestic use may be estimated at 5s. 3d. per stone imperial, and Cheviot wool at L. 1, 1s. per do.

Husbandry.—The common breed of cattle has already been mentioned. Not a little has been done of late for its improvement by the premiums given for superior stock, both by the Banffshire Farmer Club, and the Highland Society. Since 1829 the short-horned or Teeswater bull has been introduced; and the result has been a decided advantage, both as regards size and facility of fattening. With the view also of improving the breed of horses, an enterprising farmer lately brought down several fine Clydesdale mares, both in symmetry and strength very superior to the ordinary class of the district. Nor are the improvements confined to this department of husbandry. Draining is carried on to a large extent, and with great activity. On one farm, which may be given as a specimen, there have been completed, since 1837, not less than 10,175 yards of open ditches, and 17,998 of drains, on the plan recommended by Mr Smith of Deanston, besides 1600 of march ditches, cut by the heritor. On some of the other farms the draining has been nearly to the same extent. The introduction of bone manure has been productive of great benefit; and it is now extensively used. Several new thrashing-mills have been

recently erected. The farm enclosures are but few ; nor can it be said that there is not much room for improvement in regard to the farm-buildings. All the later erections, however, have been much superior to those which preceded them. The general duration of leases is nineteen years ; and it is believed, that few tenants are more indulgently treated than those on the estates in this parish.

Quarries.—There are three lime quarries ; one at the mouth of the burn of Boyne ; another on the Glassaugh estate, near to Sandend ; and a third close by that village. The last has not been much wrought for some time. There are annually produced at the first about 13,000 barrels of lime, and at the second, about 7000. There is also a quarry of beautiful quartz on the north side of the hill of Durn, from which exports are made for the use of the potteries in England. It is considered to be peculiarly suitable for this purpose, and to be much superior to the English quartz.

Fisheries.—There are ten fishing-boats in Portsoy, and seven in Sandend, with four men to each boat. When the fishermen go to a distance to the cod fishing or herring fishing, they use a larger boat, with from five to seven men. Each crew of four men pays an annual rent to the proprietor of L. 4, 3s. 4d. ; for which he supplies them, if required, with a new boat every seventh year. They will realize on an average to every man, from L. 27 to L.30 annually ; but the amount will be more than this, if the herring-fishing has been very successful. Salmon-fishing by the bag-net, is also carried on at a station near to the mouth of the burn of Boyne. The rent to the proprietor for the part of the coast in this parish, is L. 12, 10s. The average number of salmon caught for last two years was 147, and of grilises, 410.

Amount of Produce.—The average gross amount of raw produce raised in the parish, as nearly as that can be ascertained, is as follows :—

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| Produce of grain of all kinds, | | L. 24955 |
| of potatoes, turnips, &c. | | 7362 |
| of hay and pasture grass, | | 5347 |
| of fisheries, sea and salmon, | | 2220 * |
| of quarries, | | 1220 |
| of flax and other miscellaneous produce, | | 146 |

Total annual value of raw produce, 41,250

Manufactories.—There is a small rope manufactory in Portsoy,

* The calculation here made is for the number of boats only belonging to the parish, and does not include any extra boats during the herring fishing.

adjoining to the premises which were formerly occupied in connection with a thread manufactory and bleachfield. There is also a small distillery ; and a bone, thrashing, and saw mill, driven by the same water wheel, has lately been erected in the centre of the town. The importing of flax for spinning, which used to be to a large extent, has now entirely ceased ; and a most important means of support to humble and industrious females has thus been withdrawn.

Navigation.—There are eight vessels belonging to the port of Portsoy, the whole registered tonnage of which is 556 of new measure. Scotch and English coals are the chief imports. The amount of the former for the year, from May 6, 1839, to May 6, 1840, was 3250 tons, including 200 discharged at Redhyth ; and of the latter, 3500 tons. From eight to ten foreign vessels, chiefly from different parts of the Baltic, annually visit this port, bringing with them bones, and taking cargoes of herrings in return. Besides the export of herrings, grain is also frequently shipped to a large amount.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Market-Towns, &c.—Portsoy is the chief market-town, at which a weekly market is held on Saturday, for the sale of the various articles of country produce. It was erected into a burgh of barony by a charter granted by Queen Mary in 1550. Its population at present is much the same as in 1831, viz. 1525. The population of the village of Fordyce, which was also made a burgh of barony in 1499, and had its charter renewed in 1592 to Menzies of Durn, is 212 ; of the fishing village of Sandend, 203 ; and of New Mills, in the interior of the parish, 30. Besides the accommodation of a regular post-office in Portsoy, and of a daily coach running between Aberdeen and Elgin, the parish is now supplied with excellent roads, being intersected by these in every quarter. There are fourteen miles of regular turnpike leading to Banff, Cullen, Keith, and Huntly. The bridges on the roads are substantial but the fences are but few. The pier around the new harbour of Portsoy, which was built by the proprietor, the Earl of Seafield, at a large expense, in the years 1825–28, and which formed one of the safest and most commodious on the coast, was first severely shaken on the north side, by the tremendous sea storm of 7th January 1839 ; and by another, on the 30th of the same month, was totally demolished. Not having been yet rebuilt, the

old harbour is the only one at present used for shipping ; though small it is very safe and convenient.

Ecclesiastical State.—The parish church of Fordyce is centrally situated as respects the whole *quoad civilia* parish, and also its own ecclesiastical one, now only connected with it. The distance from it to the boundaries, varies from one and a-half to five miles. It was built in 1804, and is at present in a complete state of repair. It will accommodate about 1100 sitters. The sittings, divided amongst the several heritors, are all free. It is not known when the manse was built, but it underwent a thorough repair in 1832. The glebe is only two acres and a half, and its value about L. 5. But there is a croft of five acres called the vicar's croft, and which was mortified in 1595 for the use of the minister of Fordyce, which is still enjoyed by him. The stipend is sixteen chalders, exclusive of the bequest by Mr Smith already-mentioned.

The former chapel of ease at Portsoy was erected in 1836 into a regular *quoad sacra* parish church. The new parish, comprehending the town and a district of from one to two miles in circuit, lies wholly within the old parish. The church accommodates nearly 700 sitters. The minister's stipend is paid from seat-rents, and an annual allowance of L. 40 by the Earl of Seafield. It is guaranteed to the amount of 100 guineas ; and has hitherto, to the present incumbent, been made somewhat more. The payment of seat-rents, however, even though they be comparatively low, is felt to bear heavily on the labouring classes. All that an ordinary day-labourer can earn, (hardly averaging L. 18 annually,) is quite inadequate to enable him to pay for church accommodation, and the necessary education of his children, in addition to what is indispensably requisite to their comfortable maintenance.

There is an Episcopalian Chapel, and also a Roman Catholic one in Portsoy. The Roman Catholic Bishop resides at Preshome, in the *quoad sacra* parish of Enzie. The number of Episcopalians in the whole parish is 95 ; of Roman Catholics, 112 ; of Dissenters, 23, leaving 3134 in connection with the Established Church, of whom 1450 are in the ecclesiastical parish of Fordyce, and 1684 in that of Portsoy. Divine service is well attended at the two Established churches, unless in very unfavourable weather ; and this is also stated to be the case at the two chapels. The number of communicants in Fordyce and Portsoy, for the last few years, has varied from 480 to 500 to each. There is a parochial association for religious purposes in both parishes, the object of

which is to support the schemes of the General Assembly, and to provide, at the same time, for local wants, such as Sabbath school libraries, cheap Bibles, circulation of tracts, and the like. The average amount of annual contributions for these objects may be stated as being, for Fordyce, L.16, 10s., and for Portsoy, L.14, 10s.

Education.—There are eleven schools in the whole *quoad civilia* parish, of which one is parochial; one is supported by the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge; five others have more or less aid given to them from voluntary liberality, and the rest are entirely dependent on the exertions of their teachers. Greek, Latin, English grammar, arithmetic, mathematics, and all the common branches of education, are taught both at Fordyce and Portsoy. The salary of the parochial schoolmaster is L. 34, 4s. 4½d. and the annual amount of his school-fees, about L. 30. He has no dwelling-house from the heritors, nor any allowance in lieu of it, but he has a glebe of ten acres of land, mortified by Thomas Menzies of Durn. The salary of the society's teacher in Portsoy is L. 15, with L. 5 additional from the Earl of Seafield, and the usual accommodation of a house and cow's grass. His school-fees average about L. 20. The same nobleman gives liberally to the support of an infant-school teacher, and female teacher, in Portsoy, and to three other teachers in different parts of the country district. The annual expense of education at the parochial school varies from 10s. to L. 1, according to the branches required; at the Society's school from 6s. to 14s.; and at the grammar school of Portsoy, which is unendowed, from 12s. to L. 1, 10s. The children at the infant school pay each one penny per week. The fees for the common branches of female education are much the same as those paid at the other schools; but a considerably higher charge is made for music, French, drawing, and the like.

There are very few between the ages of six and fifteen, who cannot either read, or are not learning to read; and few also who are not, at the same time, taught to write. Any persons above that age who are unable to read, and of whom likewise the number is very small, consists almost entirely of those who have come from the Highlands, and settled in the parish, after they had reached the years of maturity. The people in general are fully alive to the benefits of education; and the means of attaining these are now amply provided, there being no part of the parish that is not within a comparatively short distance of a school. No additional

school is needed; but it were most desirable that the grammar-school in Portsoy were raised to the full status of a parochial one. By the extension of week-day schools, in conjunction with the Sabbath schools, the latter of which are under the immediate charge of the ministers of the Established Church, and are regularly attended by upwards of 400 children, a marked and gratifying improvement has been wrought, more especially upon the rising generation.

Literature.—There are two subscription libraries in Portsoy, besides a Sabbath school one there, and another at Fordyce, the books of which are given gratuitously to the children. There is also a small select library, consisting chiefly of religious works, belonging to the Episcopalian congregation. These have done much good, by diffusing a taste for reading among the parishioners.

Savings Bank.—A receiving branch of the Banff Central Savings Bank was established at Portsoy in 1837. Though it has not yet prospered to the extent that could be wished, it may be stated as a proof of its making progress, that within the last twelve months L. 145 have been deposited, while not more than L. 20 have been drawn. The depositors are chiefly of the working classes; and the whole amount of the deposits is now above L. 300.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—There are two distinct managements of the poor's funds,—one by the session of Fordyce, and the other by that of Portsoy; each session maintaining the poor connected with its own district of the parish.

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|---|------------|
| Average number of persons receiving parochial aid in Fordyce, | 50 |
| Portsoy, | 70 |
| Average allowance to each annually in Fordyce | - L. 1 1 0 |
| Portsoy, | - 1 0 0 |
| Average amount of church collections in Fordyce, | 34 0 0 |
| Interest of money and bequests, | - 19 0 0 |
| Average amount of church collections in Portsoy, | 59 0 0 |
| Interest of money and bequests, | - 14 0 0 |

Besides the above means of support to the poor, there are about 40 bolls of meal annually distributed amongst the more indigent; and there is a female benevolent society in Portsoy, which sometimes expends in coal, clothing, &c. to the amount of L. 30. In both congregations, an extraordinary collection is made every year for the Aberdeen Infirmary, and for a pauper lunatic fund, established for the benefit of the different parishes in the presbytery, and under its immediate management. We regret to say, that, instead of their being, as formerly, a reluctance on the part of the

poor to seek parochial relief, the reverse is now too frequently the case.

Fairs.—There is a fair (All-Hallow Fair) held annually at Fordyce on the last Wednesday of October (old style); and another at the same place on the fourth Thursday of November (old style.) Both are for the sale of cattle and sheep; and the first has also been long one of the chief feeding markets of the district.

Inns.—The number of alehouses and shops where ardent spirits are sold in Fordyce and Portsoy together, is no less than 24. The effect of licensing so many of these has been most injurious to the morals of the community; and the facility with which such licenses have been hitherto obtained cannot be too deeply lamented. A Society on the principle of total abstinence, has been lately established in Portsoy, and its influence in lessening the prevalence of intemperance has already been very gratifying. Though as yet of little more than three months standing, it has reduced the consumption of ardent spirits to nearly one-third less than it had been in the former quarter. Such an influence needs only to be sufficiently extended, and made permanent, to drive intemperance speedily from the face of our land.

Fuel.—The chief fuel is English coals; but in the country district, a considerable quantity of peat is used, procured from the vicinity of the Knock Hill, and other adjacent places. The expense of the latter, per load, may be estimated at 2s. while the ordinary price of coals per barrel is 1s. 3d. In the summer season the barrel may often be purchased at 1s. 1d. or 1s. 2d.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The valuation of this parish in the year 1690, after deducting the public burdens, was L. 8274 Scots, or L. 689, 10s. of Sterling money. In last Statistical account, the land rent is stated to be nearly L. 4000. It is now about double of this sum, thus affording the best of all proofs of the success with which agricultural improvements have been carried on during the last forty or fifty years. It is also within the same period, that the excellent turnpikes and the other best roads have been made. An extension, however, of the present system of draining, the raising of more fences, the introduction of a superior style in farm-buildings, and the planting of some of the waste parts, would still farther add to the present improved aspect of the parish; and while the active spirit that is now showing itself gives promise of such meliorations in the

rural economy being rapidly extended, it is hoped that the continued appliance of the means of intellectual and Christian instruction will, under the Divine blessing, have a corresponding success, and be instrumental in making the moral improvement of the parishioners to keep pace with the advancements that are made in other respects. From the latter source only can flow the true and permanent happiness of individuals and communities; and statesmen would do well to keep in view, that all national prosperity will just be healthy and secure, in proportion as it is based on the character of a moral and religious people.

February 1842.

PARISH OF CABRACH. *

PRESBYTERY OF ALFORD, SYNOD OF ABERDEEN.

THE REV. JAMES GORDON, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—THE name is derived from words in the Gaelic language signifying the *Timber Moss*, the parish being covered with moss and fir.

Boundaries, Extent, &c.—The medium length of the parish from south to north is 5 miles; the breadth from east to west, 3 miles. It is bounded on the north, by the parish of Glass; on the south, by Glenbucket; on the east, by Kildrummy; and on the west, by Mortlach and Inveraven.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY

Antiquities.—There is a tradition that one of the Kings of Scotland, Malcolm Caumore, had a residence in the parish, at a place called the “King’s haugh,” on the farm of Spenwell, and it is said there are still ruins of a castle to be seen there. I went in consequence to examine the spot, where I found ruins indeed, but such as had evidently been the abodes of later and humbler occupants, though the nature and quantity of materials might countenance the idea that they had been taken from the remains of some for-

* From Notes furnished by the Rev. William Ronald, parochial schoolmaster of Cabrach.

mer building. The place is a small haugh, about three acres in extent, bounded on the north by a steep and rocky bank, upwards of 100 feet in perpendicular height. At the upper part, the Blackwater enters by a narrow passage through a rock, and runs through a deep and rapid channel, having on the south a precipitous bank of more than thirty feet, rising into a high and steep hill at the lower end. Altogether, if inaccessibility and concealment had been the objects of choice, a securer den could scarcely have been selected. There is on the west side of the eminence into which the north bank rises, a deep excavation into the rock of from twenty to thirty paces in length. There are, also, some remains of a chapel and burial-ground on the north bank of the Doveran, near Lesmurdie.

Parochial Registers.—The oldest register extant begins in 1711, and contains registrations of baptisms and marriages, accounts of collections for the poor, and distributions, intermixed with the minutes of the kirk-session at intervals, till 1747; from which time, separate registers of baptisms, marriages, and matters relating to the poor's funds have been kept. The first is rather defective, owing to the negligence of parents; the other two are full and complete.

Land-owners.—There are three heritors, viz. the Duke of Richmond, the valuation of whose lands is L.843, 5s. 2d.; Captain James Stewart of Lesmurdie, L. 283; William James Grant of Baldorney, L. 150. They are non-resident; but the Duke of Richmond has a shooting-lodge at Blackwater, in his deer forest of that name, about four or five miles north-west from the church, and Captain Stewart another at Lesmurdie Cottage, about an equal distance north from it.

III.—POPULATION.

As there is neither town nor village in the parish, the whole population is rural: and in 1831, there were in Aberdeenshire, 412; in Banffshire, 566; total, 978; in 1841, 827.

Number of illegitimate births in the parish within the last three years, 8.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Several years have elapsed since any survey of the two principal properties has been made; and during that time, considerable alterations have taken place in the extent of lands under tillage. The general character of the parish is wild and mountainous; and there is a great extent of peat mosses, the remains of the extensive woods with

which the parish must formerly have been covered, and of barren moors. There is, however, a considerable extent to which cultivation might still be advantageously extended, though the greater part of the parish must continue for ever in a waste state. There is no undivided common. A few acres, say ten or twelve, are covered with stunted birch of natural growth. There is a small plantation near Blackwater House, and some ground has lately been planted near Lesmurdie cottage and the manse, the whole of which does not exceed six acres.

The real rental of the parish is about L. 2416, 18s. 6d. Sterling, exclusive of some hill ground, preserved as a deer forest, and worth about L.50.

During the last thirty years, the turnip husbandry, and a regular rotation of cropping,—seven-shift, has been introduced. During the same period, a considerable portion of waste land has been brought under cultivation, and some of the more spirited agriculturists are now beginning to subdivide and inclose. Two annual cattle-markets were established in 1824, one in July, the other in October, both which are well attended. A serious obstruction to agricultural improvements is the lamentable deficiency of roads and bridges. From the great extent of waste land in the parish, the commutation road-money is inadequate to supply this want. During the above period, a line of road through the parish, from Rhynie to Mortlach, has been opened up; but, from its not being metalled, it is often barely passable, though a principal line of communication in the district.

Manufactures.—There are two small distilleries in the parish, bearing a very high character for the excellence of the malt spirits produced at them, conducted by Messrs John Taylor, Lesmurdie, and James Robertson, Tomnavin. They consume about 640 quarters of malt annually, and produce 10,000 gallons of spirits. Some of the tenants also burn lime with peat, chiefly for their own use, but in some cases for sale.

Fishing.—The various mountain-streams in the parish afford excellent trout. Salmon are also occasionally found in the Doveran.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Ecclesiastical State.—Number of families in the parish belonging to the Established Church, 147; Dissenting or Seceding families, 21; Roman Catholic families, 2. The amount of stipend is L.152, 10s. The glebe is said to contain upwards of 22 Scotch acres, or about 28 imperial acres, and may be worth L.10

annually. The manse was built in 1801 or 1802. It is in a tolerable state of repair, and affords about the average accommodation of manses.

Education.—There were four schools last winter, one parochial, three private. Of the latter, one taught by an old woman, affords instruction in English reading only. If these schools were permanent, they would be amply sufficient. But the emoluments of the private schools are inadequate to secure the services of qualified teachers throughout the year. One good school is wanted. Salary of the parochial schoolmaster, L.29, 18s. 9½d., additional do. in lieu of a garden, L.2, 2s. 9½d.; in all, L.32, 1s. 7½d. Fees amount to about L.4 per annum. From session-clerkship, &c. say L.2 per annum. This parish is also entitled to participate in the Dick bequest.

Poor.—The number for the last three years on the ordinary roll and their dependents, 14; receiving occasional aid, 10; total, 24. To ordinary paupers the amount allotted is L.2, 1s. 9½d.; occasional aid, 9s. 2d.; average of both classes, L.1, 8s. per annum, on an average of the last three years. On an average of the last three years, the amount raised for the poor from church collections was L.10, 5s. 9¾d. per annum; from alms or legacies, L.11, 16s. 5d. including the interest of some accumulated funds. There is no legal assessment.

March 1842.

PARISH OF ROTHIEMAY.*

PRESBYTERY OF STRATHBOGIE, SYNOD OF MORAY.

THE REV. HARRY LEITH, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Boundaries, &c.—THE parish of Rothiemay is bounded on the east and north-east, by the parish of Marnoch; on the south and south-east, by Inverkeithnie, Forgue, and Huntly; on the west and south-west, by Cairny; on the north and north-west, by

* Drawn up from Notes furnished by Mr William Webster, Parochial Schoolmaster of Rothiemay.

Grange. Its greatest length is from 7 to 8 miles; its greatest breadth from 5 to 6.

The northern part of this parish is inferior to the rest, both in fertility and beauty. About a mile below its confluence with the Isla, the Doveran, running eastward, divides the parish into two parts, of which the northern follows the course of the river more than two miles, the southern near two miles farther.

Last year a disease, which proved very fatal, broke out in one district of the parish, and carried off, in a very short time, the female heads of five families. It was confined to females, with one solitary exception. The male who was seized had a tedious and protracted recovery. It was a species of erysipelas, and might be designated a diffusive phlegmonous erysipelas, and was said by the attending medical gentlemen to be seldom seen, except in large hospitals, or on board ships of war.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Parochial Registers.—These consist of, 1. a register commenced 1601, which contains the minutes of the kirk-session, the collections made for the poor, and the distribution of the same. 2. Fragments of a register, almost in loose leaves, without the beginning. This comprises the transactions of the session from the 1st December 1644 to the 16th September 1649. 3. The Book of Discipline of the parish of Rothiemay, containing all that was done and acted, either in church or session, since the visitation of the kirk of Rothiemay by the Presbytery of Strathbogie, 19th September 1649, Mr James Gordon being minister thereat. 4. The minutes of the accounts of the parish church of Rothiemay, resting by delinquents or paid by such, as also a note of mortifications and church taxes, laid on for upholding the church for several years, together with the minute book of the acts of the church-session of Rothiemay, beginning 16th August 1657. 5. The acts of the session of the church of Rothiemay since the 1st March 1662. 6. Session register of Rothiemay, beginning 23d May 1686.—*Soli Deo gloria in æternum.* It purports to be the register of acts, delinquents, and delinquencies, fines, absolutions, and dependencies, which concern the discipline of the session of Rothiemay. 7. Register of marriages and baptisms, in very bad condition, commencing 1677. It is in loose and detached pieces, and wants the beginning and end. 8. The register of contracts of marriage and marriages within the parish of Rothiemay since the 3d of January 1692. 9. The register of

baptisms within the parish of Rothiemay since the 27th May 1693. 10. The register of the minutes of the kirk-session of Rothiemay, containing collections made for the poor and the distribution of the same, commencing 2d March 1717. 11. The register of baptisms within the parish of Rothiemay, commencing January 1748, and of marriages within the parish of Rothiemay from the year 1750. 12. The register of baptisms within the parish of Rothiemay, commencing January 1820. 13. A register of marriages within the parish of Rothiemay, commencing 20th January 1827. 14. Cash-book of the kirk-session of Rothiemay, commencing from 1800. 15. Minute book of the kirk-session of Rothiemay, commencing 23d August 1827.

In the old registers and minutes, commencing 1601, and continued to 1715, there are two considerable blanks, from 1630 to 1644, and from 1673 to 1686, for which years there is neither register nor minutes. There is a blank in the baptismal registers from 30th July 1710 till 1748, and in the marriage registers from 22d July 1707 till the year 1750. In the minute and cash-book, from the 10th April 1735 till 1800, and from 1800 till 1827, there are no minutes of church discipline. The registers of this parish are among the oldest, if not the oldest, within the Synod of Moray. Though they appear to have been kept in general with great regularity, yet they have been preserved in a very careless manner. Considerable parts of them are lost, and the early baptism and marriage registers are in a very mutilated state. A few of the parishioners, impressed with the value of these records, are about to raise a subscription to have them rebound.

Land-owners.—The principal land-owners in the parish are, the Right Honourable James Earl of Fife, and William Duff, Esq. of Mayen. The valuation of the Earl of Fife's estate is L.2728, 17s. 2d., and that of Mayen, L.441, 2s. 10d.

Mansion-Houses.—The mansion-houses in the parish are those of Rothiemay and Mayen.

III.—POPULATION.

| | | |
|--|---|------|
| The population of the parish was, in 1801, | . | 1061 |
| 1811, | . | 1067 |
| 1821, | . | 1154 |
| 1831, | . | 1228 |
| 1841, | . | 1227 |

There is a small village in the parish, containing 79 inhabitants. The number of illegitimate births within the last three years is 6.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.—It has not been possible to ascertain the number of acres, standard imperial measure, in the parish, which are either cultivated or occasionally in tillage, nor the number of acres which never have been cultivated, and which remain constantly waste or in pasture. There are somewhat more than 5000 imperial acres in the parish, inclusive both of cultivated, waste, pasture, moss, and woods.

The most profitable way of applying capital to the improvement of the waste land would be, by planting, with the exception of the moss, the bottom of which, after being completely dug out, would make excellent cultivated land. There is no part of the parish in a state of undivided common.

The plantations are very extensive, and none of them natural. The average rent of cultivated land per acre is about L.1 Sterling. The real rent of the parish appears to be from L.4000 to L.5000 Sterling.

The more recent agricultural improvements consist of draining, diking, hedging, and the improving of waste land.

There is a small woollen manufactory in the parish.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Since the old Account was published, fifteen miles of commutation roads have been made in the parish, and that part of the Huntly, Banff, and Portsoy turnpike which passes through the parish. Were the line of turnpike from Inverury to Bognie Brae, extended to the Keith and Banff turnpike, past the Milltown of Rothiemay, and a bridge built over the Doveran at this village, these would add much to the improvement of the district, and to the convenience, comfort, and safety of the lives of the parishioners of Rothiemay on the south side of the Doveran, and of others who have occasion to cross the river in this quarter.

Ecclesiastical State.—The number of families in the parish belonging to the Established Church is 259. The number of Dissenting or Seceding families, 6. The number of Episcopalian families, 6. The number of Roman Catholic families, 5. The amount of stipend is 15 chalders of victual, the one-half meal, and the other half barley, at fairs prices, and L.8, 6s. 8d. communion elements. The annual value of the glebe may be L. 10, 10s., and the extent nearly eight acres, including the site of manse and garden. The manse was finished in 1825, and is in good condition.

Education.—There are two schools in the parish, viz. the pa-

rochial, and one supported entirely by school-fees. The parochial schoolmaster's salary is L. 30, and his fees may amount to about L. 20. The schoolmaster is at present session-clerk, the emoluments arising from which office are from L. 5 to L. 6 Sterling per annum; and L. 2 Sterling in lieu of a garden.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The average number of persons receiving parochial aid is 16. Besides these, there are from twelve to sixteen who receive aid occasionally, at an average of L. 3, 1s. 8d. per annum. The average sum allowed to each regular pauper per annum is L. 1, 8s. 2d. The average annual amount of contributions for relief of the poor from church collections, is L. 30, 1s. 2½d. There are no legal assessments; but the Right Honourable Earl of Fife, Alderman Pirie, London, Thomas Grant, Esq. at Auchincloch of Rothiemay, and other benevolent individuals, have contributed largely from time to time, to relieve the distress, and alleviate the sufferings of the regular paupers, and other persons in indigent circumstances.

March 1842.

PARISH OF GLASS.*

SYNOD OF MORAY, PRESBYTERY OF STRATHBOGIE.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—THE name of this parish is derived from a Gaelic word signifying dark-green, and is descriptive of the appearance of the uncultivated parts of the parish.

Extent and Boundaries.—The figure of the parish is an oval, with several indentations. Its greatest length, from east to west, is about 8 English miles, and its greatest breadth about 5; its superficial contents about 30 square miles. It is bounded on the south, by hills which separate it from Gartly and Rhynie; on the west, by hills which separate it from Cabrach and Mortlach; on the north-west and north, by a glen which separates it from Bortriphnie; on the north-east and east, by Cairney; and on the south-east, by Huntly.

The hills run abruptly from the vale of Strathbogie to the east,

* Drawn up by the late incumbent, the Rev. John Cruickshank.

and stretch westward with increasing elevation and almost unbroken range, till they terminate at the shores of the Western Ocean. A stranger viewing the parish from certain points would conclude that it contains no cultivated land, as he sees nothing but hills and moors. But there are not a few rich straths, the principal of which is that through which the river Doveran flows, with serpentine course, from one extremity of the parish to the other, having a pretty regular line of hills on each side, from 1200 to 2000 feet above the level of the sea.

Hydrography.—There are a vast number of springs, of different magnitude, around each of the hills. Those towards their summits are intermittent, being dry in summer; those at their bases, and in the hollows, perennial. Some of them produce pure water; others are mixed with chalybeate, and other ores, according to the nature of the rocks and strata through which they percolate.

The only river in the parish is the Doveran, already mentioned. It rises among the hills of Cabrach, the adjoining parish, and flows with great velocity from one extremity of Glass to another, through a deep narrow vale, from west to east, emptying itself into the Moray Frith, at Banff, after a winding course of about fifty miles.

The prevailing soil over the parish is a light loam, of from six to twelve inches deep, resting on a strong impervious bed of yellow clay, mixed with small stones, containing, no doubt, a portion of marl, as when trenched up, and intermixed with the soil, it produces luxuriant crops without manure.

Formerly, considerable flocks of sheep were raised and fed; but now, owing to losses in severe seasons, they are reduced to a few hundreds, mostly of the black-faced Highland breed. Their place is more profitably occupied by small cattle.

Botany.—Along the banks of the river, the large hills are, to a certain height, fringed with natural plantations, consisting principally of :

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Betula alba | Salices | Corylus avellana |
| Alnus glutinosa | Pyrus Aucuparia | Rosa canina |
| Fraxinus ornus | Prunus cerasus | Juniperus communis. |

The hills, above the limits of cultivation, are clothed principally with :

| | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Calluna vulgaris | Melica cerulea | Genista Anglica |
| Erica cinerea | Myrica gale | Vaccinium myrtillus |
| ~~~~~ tetralix | Nardus stricta | Aira cæspitosa |
| Empetrum nigrum | Festuca ovina | Juncus squarrosus. |
| Eriophorum angustifolium | Alra caryophyllea | |
| Eleocharis cæspitosa | ~~~~~ flexuosa | |

In spring, besides our more common plants,

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <i>Mercūrialis perennis</i> | <i>Oxalis acetosella</i> | <i>Chrysosplenium oppositifolium</i> |
| <i>Primula vulgaris</i> | <i>Cardamine hirsuta</i> | <i>Viola palustris, &c.</i> |
| <i>Asperula odorata</i> | <i>Draba verna</i> | |
| <i>Anemone nemorosa</i> | <i>Tussilago farfara</i> | |
| <i>Ranunculus Ficaria</i> | <i>Fragaria vesca</i> | |

The *Adoxa moschatellina*, *Chrysosplenium alternifolium*, and *Arenaria verna*, as of greater rarity, claim particular notice. The first, although by no means a common plant, has been found in a wood opposite to the manse, giving out its characteristic and agreeable odour. The second, seldom seen in the neighbourhood, in some places unites its golden blossoms with those of its brother species, to grace the sides of shaded springs; and the last, although not new to the country, can be found in few places in greater perfection than on some serpentine rock in the upper part of the parish.

The long and uninteresting list of the more frequent summer and autumn plants, it would be useless to enumerate. The following, however, as of rarer occurrence, seem to deserve more particular remark :

| | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <i>Viola lutea</i> | <i>Sedum villosum</i> | <i>Teesdalia nudicaulis</i> |
| <i>Gentiana campestris</i> | <i>Trollius Europæus</i> | <i>Anchusa sempervivum</i> |
| <i>Polygonum viviparum</i> | <i>Hypericum humifusum</i> | <i>Myrrhis odorata</i> |
| <i>Pyrola media</i> | <i>~~~~~ hirsutum</i> | <i>Senecio saracenicus.</i> |
| <i>~~~~~ minor</i> | <i>Cnicus heterophyllus</i> | |

The three latter are found in the neighbourhood of Apwanly, and have at one time been probably cultivated in the garden, although now growing at some distance from it.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

It is worthy of notice, that the maternal great-grandfather of Henry Lord Brougham, Mr Walter Sim, was minister here about the beginning of last century, and was thence translated to the neighbouring parish of Mortlach, where he died.

Land-owners.—These are, the Earl of Fife; Trustees of the late James Earl of Fife; and Mr Grant, a minor, nephew of the late Sir William Grant, Master of the Rolls, proprietor of the lands of Beldorney, formerly belonging to the Gordons of Wardhouse and Kildrumny, of which latter family, Rear-Admiral Sir James A. Gordon is a son.

Two of the “ aught-an’-furty ” davochs, of the lordship of Huntly are located in this parish, but were alienated by gift to two of the meritorious vassals of the chief of the Gordon family; that of Apwanly to Calder, after the battle of Brechin; and that

of Cairnbarrow, to a Gordon, who, on that occasion, or on some similar warlike expedition, accompanied his chief with his seven sons; and when importuned by his noble leader to remain at home himself, on account of age, replied, that he would “head the whelps himsel’, they would bite the better.”

Registers.—The registers of baptism, &c. reach no farther back than to 1750, and have been very irregularly kept till lately.

In several localities, more especially on the farms of Cairnmore, and Cairnbarrow, are large cairns, or barrows, composed of stones of ordinary size; but there is no tradition regarding the time or purpose of their erection, nor does it appear that they have been opened and examined.

III.—POPULATION.

The gross population of this parish, at the commencement of last century, is said to have been upwards of 1000.

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| In 1791, it was | 970 |
| 1811, . | 721 |
| 1821, . | 888 |
| 1831, . | 932 |
| 1835, . | 980 |
| 1841, . | 886 |

There is no town or village in the parish.

| | |
|---------------------------------|----|
| The yearly average of births is | 24 |
| deaths, | 14 |
| marriages, | 10 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| The average number of persons under 15 years of age, is | 345 |
| betwixt 15 and 30, | 271 |
| 30 and 50, | 196 |
| 50 and 70, | 138 |
| upwards of 70, | 30 |

Total, 980

The number of unmarried men and widowers, upwards of 50, is 33
women, upwards of 45, . 32

The average number of children in each family is about . 5

There are 2 insane young men, and 1 old blind man.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.—The number of arable acres is computed to be about 3600. The extent of uncultivated surface can be ascertained only by deducting from the gross extent of the parish, that under cultivation and wood. From 300 to 500 acres are capable of being brought into cultivation, but whether they would pay the expense, is doubtful; in the meantime, they are of some value for pasture. Almost the whole of the highest hills are undivided common, some of them being appropriated to the several adjoining tenants. The number of acres under natural wood is about 50, con-

sisting of the kinds specified under the branch *Botany*. One hundred acres have been recently planted with pine, larch, and hardwood. No attention has been paid to the thinning and pruning of the former, and the latter is not yet fit for training. There are some fine old trees of ash and plane about the old mansion-houses of Aswanly and Beldormy, and the whole scenery about the latter is grand and picturesque. The average rent of arable land per acre is about 15s. ; some of the poorest worth little more than labour and seed, and some of the best worth L. 2.

The mode of cropping most generally followed is by seven shifts,—three years in grass ; two in oats ; one in green crop ; and one partly in oats, and partly in bear or bigg, with grass seeds. Wheat has been tried, but without beneficial results. The extent of the farms is small,—from 20 to 150 acres, and there are only six of the tenants qualified to vote for a member of Parliament. The farm-buildings are generally built with stones and mortar, with straw thatch, and all substantial and commodious.

Produce.—The average gross amount of raw produce raised in the parish is computed to be as follows :—

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------|---------|
| Of oats and bear, with straw, about | . . . | L. 5000 |
| Of turnips and potatoes, about | . . . | 1250 |
| Of hay, altogether cultivated, about | . . . | 1000 |
| Of pasture, &c., about | . . . | 1150 |
| Total, | | L. 8400 |

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Ecclesiastical State.—The parish church is situate in a small green, on the north side of the river, from which it is distant about 300 yards. From the western extremity of the parish, it is distant about five miles, and from the eastern extremity, about three miles ; in other respects, it is not inconveniently situate. It was built in 1782, and is in tolerable repair ; containing good accommodation for 550 sitters. All the sittings are free, and appropriated to the several proprietors, and their tenants. The manse was built in 1772, and has been partially repaired more than once, and now requires considerable repairs and improvements to render it comfortable. The amount of stipend is 15 chalders, half meal, half barley, payable by the fiars prices of Banff and Aberdeen shires, one-third of the parish being located in the former, and two-thirds in the latter ; besides L. 8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements. The extent of the glebe is about 12 acres, and its annual value about L. 20. The parish church is the only place of worship, and is attended by some of almost every family within the bounds

of the parish ; but some individuals, amounting to about 30, have joined the Dissenters. No Episcopalian or Roman Catholic is, or has been, in this parish during the last forty years, with the exception of a servant now and then. The people, in general, are as regular in their attendance at church, as the unfavourable circumstances of their situation admit. The average number of communicants is about 300. Besides the parochial population, the inhabitants of a district of the parish of Mortlach, amounting to about 150, attend divine ordinances at Glass church, it being much nearer than their own. Two annexations have been made to the original parish. On the removal of the Bishop of Mortlach in the thirteenth or fourteenth century, a large district of that extensive parish was annexed to those of Glass and Cabrach. Two chapels erected by the Bishop in this district were occupied by a Roman Catholic clergyman, so lately as the middle of last century. But not a vestige of Popery is now to be found, except the ruins of these chapels, and the burying-ground about them, which is used by the inhabitants. The Bishop drew a part of his revenue from a farm, now in this parish. The other annexation, consisting of several of the best farms in the east end of the parish, taken from the then parish of Drumdelgie or Peterkirk, now annexed to Cairnie or Botary, was made about the end of the seventeenth century, so that the original parish must have been small.

Education.—There is but one parochial school, and one unendowed. The salary of the parochial schoolmaster is the maximum, with allowance for garden, L.36, 7s. 0½d., and the amount of school-fees, L.28, 3s. 4d. The schoolmaster has the legal accommodations.

Poor.—The number of individuals on the poor's roll is, at present, 10, who receive from 5s. to 10s. each quarter. There are also several other poor families and individuals who receive occasional aid, amounting in all to about L.20 per annum. This, with the very liberal benefactions of the more opulent inhabitants, has hitherto prevented the necessity of begging and assessment. The annual amount of collections at church is about L.22, and interest of money, L. 6. In most cases, there seems to be a disposition to refrain from seeking relief from the poor's funds.

March 1842.

PARISH OF BOTRIPHNIE.

PRESBYTERY OF STRATHBOGIE, SYNOD OF MORAY.

THE REV. W. MASSON, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Extent, &c.—THE parish is situated about twenty-four miles west from the county town, and extends from north to south about $4\frac{1}{2}$, and from east to west about 3 English miles, comprehending the whole breadth of the county, being bounded by the parish of Glass, in Aberdeenshire, on the south, and on the north by part of Dundurcus, in Moray.

The greater part of the parish consists of one beautiful strath, situated between two hills to the north and south, with the small river of Isla (which takes its rise in the west part of the parish towards Mortlach) running through the middle of it. The banks of this stream are beautifully adorned with alder and birch trees, the natural produce of the country; several small rills, which fall into it from the hills on each side, are covered in the same manner.

The soil is a black loam, and, in some places, a strong clay. The course of the small river Isla, which rises in the west end of the parish, and runs through its centre, has been straightened since the last Account was drawn up; by which means a large extent of rich alluvial soil, which formerly was covered with bushes of alder or overgrown with rushes, is now in cultivation, and produces, in favourable seasons, immense crops of grain. Besides this very extensive and profitable improvement, a large quantity of land, which was in moor or in rough permanent pasture, has been brought into cultivation, and chiefly by means of lime, of which there is a plentiful supply in the immediate neighbourhood, is turning out well, producing in general very fair crops. The inclosing of the fields with stone dikes, so pointedly recommended in the last Account, has not made much progress,—one farmer only having had the spirit to incur the outlay of enclosing his farm in this way.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Parochial Registers.—The parochial registers are now kept very regularly.

Land-owners.—These are, Rear-Admiral Duff of Drummure ; Earl of Fife ; and Patrick Stewart of Auchlunkart. Valuations, L.2043, 4s. 2d., L.200, and L.76, 15s. 10d.

Mansion-House.—The only mansion-house is Botriphnie House, the shooting-seat of Admiral Duff.

III.—POPULATION.

The whole parish is landward.

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|-----|
| Amount of population in 1811, | . | 577 |
| 1821, | . | 572 |
| 1831, | . | 721 |
| 1841, | . | 714 |

-Illegitimate births within the last three years, 6.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

The number of acres, standard imperial measure, in the parish, which are either cultivated or occasionally in tillage, 4360

The number of acres which never have been cultivated, and which remain constantly waste or in pasture, 3540

The number of acres that might, with a profitable application of capital, be added to the cultivated land of the parish, whether that land were afterwards to be kept in occasional tillage or in permanent pasture, 430

The number of acres under wood, whether natural or planted, 1486

The average rent of land per acre is 12s. 6d. Real rental of the parish, L.2743.

There are in the parish 2 masons, 4 blacksmiths, 5 carpenters, 2 saw-millers, 3 shoemakers, 4 tailors, 4 weavers, and 1 turner. The rearing and spinning of flax is now almost discontinued, except for home use. There is also one merchant and innkeeper, who carries on an extensive trade in butter, eggs, &c. for the London market.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Ecclesiastical State.—The number of families in the parish belonging to the Established Church is 133 ; of Dissenting or Seceding, 4, and in two of these, only the heads of the family. There is one Episcopalian, — an unmarried man. The amount of the stipend is 13 chalders, half meal and half barley, Linlithgow measure, by the fiars prices of the county. The extent of the glebe is six acres ; value, L.10. The manse was built in 1776, and is in tolerable condition, considering its age. The church was built in 1820, and is in most excellent order, the pews and walls having been painted, at considerable expense, a few years ago.

Education.—The only schools are the parochial school, and a female school for sewing, knitting, and elementary reading. Salary of the parochial schoolmaster, L.30. Amount of fees actually paid to him, L.7 per annum. He is also entitled to a share of the Dick Bequest.

Poor.—Each pauper has an annual allowance of L.1, 6s. in money, and from one-half to one boll of meal, as the case may require, also a house and yard rent free. The average annual amount of contributions for relief of the poor is, from church collections, L.16, 17s.; meal from Drummure, twelve bolls, besides very frequently blankets and clothing. The same benevolent heritor gives the paupers their houses and yards rent free. Interest on kirk-session funds about L.4.

1841.

PARISH OF INVERKEITHNY.*

PRESBYTERY OF TURRIFF, SYNOD OF ABERDEEN.

THE REV. JAMES MILNE, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Situation, River, and Extent.—THIS parish is situated on the south side of the river Doveran. It is in length, along the river side, from 5 to 6 English miles, and between 4 and 5 in breadth. It is bounded on the south and west by Forgue; on the east, by Turriff and Auchterless; and on the north, by Marnoch.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Parochial Registers.—These are registers of baptisms, marriages, and funerals, begun in 1721, but kept with no great regularity.

Land-owners.—These are,

| | Valued rent. | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------|
| Mrs Rose Innes of Netherdale, . . . | L.564 10 0 | Scots money |
| Mr Duff of Haddo, . . . | 364 7 11 | |
| Trustees of the late Earl of Fife, . . . | 305 3 0 | |
| Trustees of the late Mr Chalmers of Cluny, (Banffshire,) . . . | 283 13 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ | |
| Mr Allardes of Boynsmill, . . . | 255 18 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ | |
| Mr Thain of Drumblair, . . . | 127 10 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ | |
| Mr Guthrie of Mains of Tullo, . . . | 141 12 0 | |
| Mr Andrew of Easter Haggis, . . . | 62 1 3 | |

* From Notes furnished by Mr Alexander Morison, Parochial Schoolmaster of Inverkeithny.

| | | | | | |
|------------------------------|---|---|--------|---|-----------------|
| Mr Chalmers of Wester Haggs, | . | . | L.61 | 4 | 6 |
| Rev. Mr Garioch of Lenshie, | . | . | 32 | 5 | 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ |
| | | | <hr/> | | |
| | | | L.2198 | 6 | 8 |

III.—POPULATION.

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|-----|
| Amount of population in 1801, | . | 503 |
| 1811, | . | 533 |
| 1821, | . | 577 |
| 1831, | . | 587 |
| 1841, | . | 686 |

Number of illegitimate births during the last three years, 4.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

| | | |
|--|---|------|
| Number of acres, standard imperial measure, in the parish, which are either cultivated or occasionally in tillage, | - | 4000 |
| Number of acres which never have been cultivated, and which remain constantly waste or in pasture, | - | 800 |
| Nearly the whole of the waste land might be cultivated, but capital would not be profitably applied to such a purpose. | | |
| Number of acres in a state of undivided common, nearly | - | 10 |
| Number of acres under wood, whether natural or planted, | - | 800 |

Average rent of land per acre, 15s. ; real rental of the parish, L.3000.

The agriculture of the parish is in general conducted on the most approved principles, skilfully applied.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Ecclesiastical State.—Number of families in the parish belonging to the Established Church, 90 ; number of Dissenting or Seceding families in the parish, 1 ; number of Episcopalian families in the parish, 3 ; number of Roman Catholic families in the parish, 1. Amount of stipend, L.220. Glebe, nearly six acres in extent, and worth about L.10 per annum. The manse was built in 1787, and is now in good condition.

Education.—Number of schools in the parish exclusive of Sabbath schools, 1. Yearly amount of parochial schoolmaster's salary, L.34, 4s. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Probable yearly amount of fees actually paid to parochial schoolmaster, L. 30. Probable amount of the other emoluments of parochial schoolmaster, L.5 nearly.

Poor.—Average number of persons receiving parochial aid, 16. Average sum allotted to each, L. 2, 10s. per annum. Average annual amount of contributions for relief of the poor, L.35 ; from church collections, L.30 ; from alms or legacies, &c. L.5. But there is also a periodical legacy of L. 20 from Burnet of Dens' mortification for the poor in the synod of Aberdeen.

March 1842.

PARISH OF GRANGE.

PRESBYTERY OF STRATHBOGIE, SYNOD OF MORAY.

THE REV. WILLIAM DUFF, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—IN the old Statistical Account of this parish, it is said that Grange takes its name from *Grangia*, a middle-age term for a farm, or country residence. It is certain that this parish was the Grange or farm of the Abbots of Kinloss, to whom the greater part of it, if not all, was given by William, King of Scots, as may be learned by a charter of Strathtulla to Kinloss, published in Shaw's History of Moray, without date, but with the names of witnesses attached. It is likely that this charter was granted by the King about the end of the twelfth century, or beginning of the thirteenth.

The jolly monks had here a residence, built on the site where the church now stands, attracted, it is said, by the beauty of the situation. If it was beautiful in these days, it is much more beautiful now, having been, a few years ago, surrounded by trees and shrubs. The mount upon which their dwelling stood is situated upon the slope of a brae, which, in appearance, is mostly artificial. It overlooks the extensive *haughs* or *holms* on the rivulet Isla, beautified principally by the cultivation of its banks,—for the trees are yet few and far between, the few venerable ashes, elms, and planes that surrounded the farm-steadings, having been rooted out and sold. On the south of the Isla, there is a wide and long brush of larch and Scotch firs, now shooting up, and changing the scene a little, from the dull uniformity of unadorned hill and valley.

Boundaries, &c.—The parish is six miles long by five broad. It is bounded on the east, by the Knock, a hill, about 1600 feet above the level of the sea. This hill is cultivated a good way up, on all sides. The greater part of its surface is deep peat, and heather. On the top the moss is from eight to ten feet deep. In the dry year 1826, the surface was burnt round and round, hav-

ing caught fire, either by accident or design, nobody knows which. There is a very extensive view from it both of sea and land—Grange is bounded on the east, west, and south, by the parishes of Marnock, Rothiemay, Cairney, and Keith; on the north, by that of Deskford and part of Fordyce. On the northern part there are two hills, the Lurghill and the hill of Altmore, now called Aulmore, which signifies the great burn. In the centre there is the Sillyearn, on which there is an extensive plantation, young and thriving. In the southern part there are the Mickle and little Balloch, the lower parts of which are now covered with wood. Towards the top there could be no hope of a tree, as it is dry, rough, and rocky. On the Mickle Balloch, there are several graves of some unhappy suicides, marked by a cairn, not sacred to their memory, but to tell of their unchristian burial and untimely end. Here is the Gallow-hill, too, of which tradition speaks with fear and trembling. On this memorable mount the criminals of the district met their ignominious fate. The abbots, as well as the feudal barons of those days, had the power to condemn without appeal, and, it is likely, to execute without justice.

The Isla is a fine trouting stream. It takes its rise in Lochpark, on the estate of Admiral Duff, in the parish of Botriphnie, runs through Keith and Grange, and empties itself into the Doveron, in the parish of Rothiemay.

There are few remarkable springs, unless two or three, that, even in the driest season, are ever flowing, and full. The best known is the Ladywell, consecrated by some temperate abbot who indulged in the soft purity of the fountain. There is also the Croik, or the well of the cross, cold and pure, on the opposite side of the Isla; and a few others of less note.

Botany.—The following may be considered as a pretty accurate list of the more common plants of the parish :

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <i>Achillæa millefolium</i> | <i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> | <i>Bellis perennis</i> |
| ptarmica | geniculatus | <i>Blechnum boreale</i> |
| <i>Ægopodium podagraria</i> | <i>Anemone nemorosa</i> | <i>Briza media</i> |
| <i>Agrostemma Githago</i> | <i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i> | <i>Bunium flexuosum</i> |
| <i>Agrostis stolonifera</i> | <i>Apargia autumnalis</i> | <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> |
| vulgaris | <i>Arctium lappa</i> | <i>Caltha palustris</i> |
| <i>Airacaspitosa</i> | <i>Arenaria rubra</i> | <i>Campanula rotundifolia</i> |
| flexuosa | <i>Artemisia vulgaris</i> | <i>Capsella bursa pastoris</i> |
| caryophyllea | <i>Arrhenatherum avenaceum</i> | <i>Cardamine pratensis</i> |
| præcox | <i>Aspidium Filix mas</i> | hirsuta |
| <i>Ajuga reptans</i> | spinulosum | <i>Carices</i> |
| <i>Alchemilla vulgaris</i> | <i>Atriplex patula</i> | <i>Centaurea nigra</i> |
| arvensis | <i>Avena fatua</i> | cyaneus |
| <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> | <i>Bartisa odontitis</i> | <i>Cerastium viscosum</i> |

| | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <i>Cerastium semidecandrum</i>
vulgatum | <i>Juncus squarrosus</i> | <i>Ranunculus Flammula</i> |
| <i>Chrysanthemum segetum</i> | <i>Juniperus communis</i> | acris |
| <i>Chrysosplenium oppositifolium</i> | <i>Lamium purpureum</i> | repens |
| <i>Cnicus lanceolatus</i> | incisum | <i>Raphanus Raphanistrum</i> |
| palustris | amplexicaule | <i>Rhinanthus Crista galli</i> |
| arvensis | <i>Lapsana communis</i> | <i>Ros spinosissima</i> |
| <i>Comarum palustre</i> | <i>Lathyrus pratensis</i> | tomentosa |
| <i>Conium maculatum</i> | <i>Lemna minor</i> | <i>Rubus Idæus</i> |
| <i>Corylus avellana</i> | <i>Leontodon taraxacum</i> | fruticosus |
| <i>Cynosurus cristatus</i> | <i>Linum catharticum</i> | <i>Rumex crispus</i> |
| <i>Cytisus scoparius</i> | <i>Lolium perenne</i> | acetosa |
| <i>Dactylus glomerata</i> | <i>Lotus corniculatus</i> | acetosella |
| <i>Digitalis purpurea</i> | <i>Luzula campestris</i> | <i>Sagina procumbens</i> |
| <i>Draba verna</i> | sylvatica | <i>Salix repens</i> |
| <i>Eleocharis palustris</i> | <i>Lychnis Flos cuculi</i> | aurita |
| <i>Empetrum nigrum</i> | <i>Lycopodium clavatum</i> | <i>Scabiosa succisa</i> |
| <i>Epilobium montanum</i> | alpinum | <i>Scirpus palustris</i> |
| palustre | selago | <i>Scleranthus annuus</i> |
| <i>Equisetum arvense</i> | <i>Lycopsis arvensis</i> | <i>Senecio vulgaris</i> |
| sylvaticum | <i>Lysimachia nemorum</i> | sylvaticus |
| palustre | <i>Medicago lupulina</i> | <i>Jacobæa</i> |
| <i>Erica cinerea</i> | <i>Mentha arvensis</i> | aquaticus |
| Tetralix | hirsuta | <i>Sherardia arvensis</i> |
| <i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i> | <i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i> | <i>Sinapis arvensis</i> |
| <i>Ervum hirsutum</i> | <i>Mercurialis perennis</i> | <i>Sisymbrium officinale</i> |
| <i>Euphorbia helioscopia</i> | <i>Montia fontana</i> | <i>Sonchus arvensis</i> |
| <i>Euphrasia officinalis</i> | <i>Myosotis palustris</i> | oleraceus |
| <i>Festuca ovina</i> | caspitosa | <i>Spergula arvensis</i> |
| <i>Fragaria vesca</i> | arvensis | <i>Spiræa ulmaria</i> |
| <i>Fumaria capreolata</i> | versicolor | <i>Stachys sylvatica</i> |
| officinalis | <i>Myrica gale</i> | palustris |
| <i>Galeopsis Tetrahit</i> | <i>Narthecium ossifragum</i> | <i>Stellaria media</i> |
| <i>Galium verum</i> | <i>Nasturtium officinale</i> | graminea |
| saxatile | <i>Orchis latifolia</i> | uliginosa |
| <i>Galium uliginosum</i> | maculata | <i>Tanacetum vulgare</i> |
| palustre | <i>Orobis tuberosus</i> | <i>Thymus serpyllum</i> |
| aparine | <i>Oxalis acetosella</i> | <i>Tormentilla officinalis</i> |
| <i>Genista anglica</i> | <i>Papaver dubium</i> | <i>Trientalis Europæa</i> |
| <i>Geranium Robertianum</i> | <i>Pedicularis palustris</i> | <i>Trifolium repens</i> |
| molle | <i>Phalaris arundinacea</i> | procumbens |
| dissectum | <i>Pinguicula vulgaris</i> | pratense |
| <i>Geum urbanum</i> | <i>Pinus sylvestris</i> (extinct) | filiforme |
| <i>Glechoma hederacea</i> | <i>Plantago lanceolata</i> | <i>Triglochin palustre</i> |
| <i>Gnaphalium sylvaticum</i> | major | <i>Tussilago farfara</i> |
| uliginosum | maritima | <i>Ulex Europæus</i> |
| dioicum | <i>Poa fluitans</i> | <i>Urtica urens</i> |
| <i>Heracleum sphondylium</i> | trivialis | dioica |
| <i>Hieracium pilosella</i> | pratensis | <i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i> |
| sylvaticum | annua | <i>Valeriana officinalis</i> |
| <i>Hippuris vulgaris</i> | <i>Polygala vulgaris</i> | <i>Veronica serpyllifolia</i> |
| <i>Holcus mollis</i> | <i>Polygonum aviculare</i> | Beccabunga |
| lanatus | Convolvulus | officinalis |
| <i>Hypericum pulchrum</i> | amphibium | chamædrys |
| perforatum | Persicaria | hederifolia |
| <i>Hypochæris radicata</i> | <i>Potamogeton natans</i> | agrestis |
| <i>Iris pseudacorus</i> | <i>Potentilla anserina</i> | arvensis |
| <i>Juncus effusus</i> | <i>Primula vulgaris</i> | <i>Vicia cracca</i> |
| conglomeratus | <i>Prunella vulgaris</i> | angustifolia |
| acutiflorus | <i>Pteris aquilina</i> | sepium |
| uliginosus | <i>Pyrethrum inodorum</i> | <i>Viola canina</i> |
| | <i>Ranunculus aquaticus</i> | tricolor. * |
| | hederaceus | |

* The above list was drawn up on 2d October 1838, and, in consequence of the lateness of the season, it is probable that several of the rarer genera and species have been overlooked.

There is no doubt that Grange was anciently covered with wood. In the extensive peat mosses, are found imbedded roots and trunks of fir and oak, chiefly of fir, vast quantities of which are cast out in the preparation of fuel. There are now large tracts of young wood on Lord Fife's estates; and perhaps from fifty to sixty acres on the estate of Sir James Innes, Bart. of Edingight.

This parish is now generally under cultivation—even the mossy and heathy hill of Aulmore is rapidly creeping under the plough. This hill is studded far and wide with the cottages of the poor; but much of the lower lands has been cultivated with industry and skill. There is a great extent of excellent soil in the parish; much, however, which no tillage will ever make good. The clayey and hard till subsoils prevail much, and are much complained of. The climate, in general, and particularly on the Davoch of Grange, is healthy and bracing.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Grange was feued out into small lairdships, upon the appearance of the Reformation, by the then abbot of Kinloss, and was thus put into the hands of a great number of small proprietors. In the course of years, the number diminished, as the wealth of some, and the wants of others, increased. It is said of Alexander Duff of Braco, Lord Fife's ancestor, one of the more cautious and economical of the feuars, that, as he was standing on the hillside at his residence of Braco, and seeing many of the laird's chimneys smoking around him, he remarked to a bystander, that he would make the smoke of these houses all go through one vent by and bye; and he nearly accomplished his purpose, as four fifths of the whole are now in the hands of his descendants. Edingight, however, still remains in the hands of the family of the original feuar, and the remainder is in the possession of the Earl of Seafield.

It is recorded that there were some battles fought in the parish between the Scots and the Danes, when the Danes landed at Cul-len, in the reign of Donald III.

III.—POPULATION.

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|------|
| Amount of population in 1811, | . | 1510 |
| 1821, | . | 1482 |
| 1831, | . | 1492 |
| 1841, | . | 1661 |

There is one resident family in the parish, that of Sir James Innes, Bart. of Balveny and Edingight. The people are, in general, moral and exemplary, and attentive to their religious duties.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

There is an extensive manufactory of lime in the parish, limestone being inexhaustible. A great proportion of the small farms have their-lime kilns, and in this way the lands have been mostly limed. Bone-manure is now much used, and we have consequently less fallow and more turnip. Bones seem to answer well with the soil; they produce very fine turnip, and not worse grass.

On the more extensive farms there are thrashing-mills, a great convenience to the farmer. They might still be more general, as they could be wrought in the localities, where there is no water, by the young oxen, without much deterioration.

There is a bed of plumbago or black-lead at a place called *Seggiecrook*, a rare mineral in the north.

Harvest-labour has undergone a great change, shearing having now been nearly abolished, and the scythe generally used. Oats is the more general produce; and the most prevalent kind at present is what is called sandy-oats. Early Angus and Kil-drummy are a good deal used. There are yearly a few fields of barley, and some patches of bear or bigg. There is no meadow hay; it all consists of rye-grass, and white and red clover. The six-shift in cultivation is generally followed, that is, two years in grass, two in oats, one in green crop, and one in oats or barley, laid down with grass for hay.

Farming is as well understood here, and the farms are in as high a state of cultivation as any in Mid-Lothian. On the large farms of Braco, Floors, Berryleys, Muirfold, Myrleton, Cantly, and others, there are as fine horses and cattle as in any part of the county. The farming utensils are of the best make and mould. The iron plough is used, and of the best principle. The smith and wright work are unrivalled. Our grain, and cattle, and pork, meet a ready market in London. Many fine cattle are here fed and shipped from the port at Banff for London yearly. This is an improvement which was not dreamed of, when the last Statistical Account was written.

There is no village in the parish, but there is a clachan, called Nether-mills. There is a sub-post-office, and only one public-house in the parish.

There is a bridge over the Isla, which was "*built by Alexander Christie, tenant in Cantly, for the glory of God, and the good of the people of Grange,*" as the inscription, which was graven upon a stone in the bridge, bore. The stone is now supposed to be

in the bottom of the rivulet. It was erected by Mr Christie to render the church accessible to the people of Cantly. One hundred merks were lodged in the hands of the laird of Edingight, to be laid out in repairing the bridge. This sum, no doubt, has been long ago exhausted. The bridge was originally very narrow, having been only intended for people on foot. To make it passable by carts, another of the same size was added to it, in the year 1783, the patron allowing the vacant stipend of that year to go to that use. The two bridges, many years ago, threatened to separate; but, on the appearance of a breach between them, they were immediately bound together by bolts of iron.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Grange was separated from Keith in 1618, of which it once formed a part. Both of these parishes are church lands. The present church was built in 1795, and contains 616 sittings, allowing eighteen inches for each sitter. It is not well situated for the bulk of the population, being within a mile of one end of the parish. There is a Secession meeting at the other end, the oldest, it is said, in the north. There are, on an average, in the parish church, about 490 communicants, of which 155 are male heads of families; in the Secession meeting, perhaps 90, made up of hearers from this and the surrounding parishes. Secession minister's stipend is L. 70 yearly. The parochial manse and offices were built in 1814; the offices are small, but the manse is large and good; the glebe is five acres of good land; the stipend $14\frac{1}{2}$ chalders, Banffshire measure, half barley, half meal, with L. 8, 6s. 8d. of communion elements. Lord Fife is patron.

Education.—The school and school-house are limited in extent. The salary is the maximum, viz. L.34, 4s. 4d. with a mortification of L. 1, 2s. yearly, and the interest of L. 100, bequeathed by the late Mr Bruce, minister of Dunbar. The master has the benefit of the Dick Bequest.

There is a school on the General Assembly's scheme, with a salary of L. 25 yearly, and a cow's keep gratis, for the benefit of which the people pay a rent, subscribed by the tenants in small sums, to Sir James Innes, the proprietor, who refuses to supply the croft gratis. The school and school-house were built by subscription in the year 1827, by the exertions of the present minister. This seminary is of infinite importance in this part of Grange, which would be otherwise entirely destitute of the means of education. There are also two other schools

on masters' own adventure, so that now every opportunity of education is offered to all parts of the parish. The people estimate, according to its true value, the instruction of their families.

Poor.—The poor, supplied from the funds, receive quarterly each about 5s. or 4s. 6d. This is a very inadequate supply; but they receive much both in food and kindness from their more fortunate neighbours. The farmers are very charitable.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

This parish is much changed since the last Statistical Account was written, having now very good roads and bridges, all kept in thorough repair. There are several very large farms, beautifully and substantially enclosed with limestone dikes, and well-kept hedges-rows. The trees and plantations are now numerous and varied, and there are many richly cultivated fields, and even farms that were at that time heather and morass. On the farms of Haughs and Mains of Grange, there is a most substantial embankment, a mile long, on the Isla, erected at the expense of the heritor. On the farms of Cantly, Clerkseat, Little Clerkseat, and Auchinhove, the farmers have erected smaller embankments, at their own expense, by which much fine land has been protected from the calamities of flood and storm. In the year 1829, the flood on the Isla was terrific, and the calamity memorable.

This parish has long been infested by cairds, tinkers, and sturdy-beggars; but it may be hoped that the evil will soon be removed by the county police.

An extensive embankment is about to be raised on the farm of Braco.

March 1842.

PARISH OF BOINDIE.

PRESBYTERY OF FORDYCE, SYNOD OF ABERDEEN.

THE REV. A. ANDERSON, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—THE ancient name of the parish was Inverboindie, *i. e.* the mouth of the Boindie: the old church, now in ruins, being situated near the point at which the small stream of that name falls into the sea. *Boindie* seems to be merely a diminutive from *Boyn*, the name of a larger stream forming the western boundary of the parish. The word *Boyn*, besides, anciently gave name to two feudal territories, one named the *thanedom*, the other the *forest* of *Boyn*. The thanedom included the chief part of this parish with certain parts of Fordyce and Banff. The forest of *Boyn* lay both to the east and west of the Forester's seat at Tarbriech, on the *shank* of the Binnhill near Cullen, comprehending a large district on the south and east of the parish of Fordyce, marching with the thanedom, besides *Blairmand* in this parish. The burn of *Boyn* thus appears to have traversed the centre of the district comprehended in the two holdings of the thanedom and the forest of the *Boyn*. The word *Bouin* in Gaelic is understood to signify a stream, and thus with *aa*, a *ford*, gives name to the parish of *Boyne*, at which there is a stream and a ford. Probably our name *Boyn*, which, in the reign of Robert Bruce, was spelt *Bouyn*, has the same origin.

Extent and Boundaries.—The figure of the parish is triangular. On the south-east it extends about $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles, and is bounded by the parishes of Marnoch, Banff, and the sea; on the north, from 2 to 3 miles, and is bounded by the sea; on the west, from 4 to 5 miles, and is bounded by the civil parish of Fordyce and by Ordiqhill. The burn of Boindie forms the march towards the south and east, except in reference to the lands of Baldavie, which cross the said water, southward; * the burn of Boyn, towards For-

* The hills of Boindie are here supposed to be in Banff, which is doubtful.

dyce; and a streamlet falling into the latter, towards Ordiquhill. By survey, the parish contains about 5000 acres, Scots measure.

Topographical Appearances.—The surface of the parish is purely of a lowland character, rather elevated, however, above the sea-level, except the fine agricultural valley through which the Boindie flows, which lies chiefly within the parish. The northern coast, bounded by the Moray Frith, is chiefly rocky, with a portion of sandy beach. At its eastern extremity, there is a point of land called the Knockhead, extending into a reef of rocks, visible at half-tide, called the Salt Stones.* Here the coast turns towards the south and forms one side of a bay. The shore between this point and the confluence of the Boindie with the sea, extends less than a mile, and forms chiefly a beach of sand and gravel.

Climate.—The climate in the lower part of the parish is dry and salubrious; that of the upper district, although removed only a few miles, is, on the other hand, wet and cold.† We find the virulent influence of the easterly wind on the human frame less complained of here than in the country at the opening of the frith, and although more steady frost occurs than on the immediate coast of the German ocean, yet we experience sufficiently the influence of the sea air to enjoy the most sensible superiority, in this respect, over the inland districts to the south. The most prevalent winds are from north-west and south-east; violent gales are generally from the former point. From other causes than their greater violence‡, it is by north-west storms almost exclusively that great damage is done to the grain crops on the coast; while their influence is attested by the

* It is understood that the grey rat was first imported into this part of the country from a vessel wrecked on this reef. Three or four of these ferocious creatures were found in the act of killing the sixth of a litter of young pigs; the former five having been killed and devoured. They are manifestly dangerous to young children.

† The cattle in this last district are very liable to the disease known here by the name of creebles—in England called chine-fellon, which also occurs at one or two points in the lower part of the parish where the soil and climate are similar. Its more immediate cause seems to be the poverty of the pasture. This is inferred from the fact, that it has been wholly banished from a small farm in the lower district, where it used greatly to prevail, since the tenant began regularly to fertilize his fields by an abundant supply of fish manure. It is a remarkable, as it appears to be a well ascertained fact, that those farms on which it prevails in the upper part of this parish, and in the adjoining district of Fordyce parish, have been peculiarly liable to this disease, only since the introduction of the sown grasses. Cattle affected with the disease are said to be cured by being made to pasture either in a marshy uncultivated situation, or in a fertile field. Thus the origin and the cure of the disease appear to illustrate the bad effects of the practice, perhaps unavoidable under an alternate system of husbandry, of cultivating the same grasses in all varieties of soils and climates.

‡ Probably the cause of this fact is to be found in the usual dryness of north-west storms, and their coming off the sea charged with salt spray unmingled with atmospheric moisture, which seldom happens in the case of north-east storms. It has been discovered that the blighted grain, if even partially filled, is quite available for seed.

uniform bend of trees in exposed situations. The parish appears to be favoured in respect of the health and longevity of its inhabitants.* There have died since 1832, one person above 100, and four or five above 90. There is now living a woman in her 100th year. A more decisive test is to be found in the proportion of persons above 70 years of age. The average over Scotland shews about one in 36 who have passed this age. Here the proportion is about one in 19.†

Hydrography.—There are no remarkable springs in the parish except common chalybeate, to which description belongs a well at the eastern boundary, much frequented in summer by persons from the inland districts, with all ranks of whom it is very customary to spend one or two weeks annually at the sea side.

Soil, &c.—A portion of the soil, chiefly on the lands of Boindie and Dallachy, on the eastern part of the parish, is a black sandy mould, of a considerable depth, with an open subsoil, fertile and early. The soil of Reattie, Baldavie, and Raggal, in the middle of the parish, is chiefly clay and clay loam, part of it highly productive. But the larger part of the parish, including a proportion of the lands specified, is a rather light soil, incumbent on a close subsoil, and is of inferior productiveness.

The direction of the strata is north by east. They have been subjected to disturbance of so violent and irregular a nature, that it is impossible to assign any particular direction to the dip. The prevailing rock in the eastern district is believed to be greywacke, which alternates frequently with a micaceous clay slate. Among these there occur frequent veins of quartz, the upheaving of which may be supposed to have acted as a disturbing force to the strata. To the west of the greywacke, hornblende rock, much of it assuming a slaty character, occupies the sea coast for upwards of a mile, and appears in various places upwards of a mile inland to the south. Numerous and large boulders of the same rock are found scattered along the coast, and prevailing in a south and south-west direc-

* It is worthy of being recorded that this parish, in common with a large part of the north-east coast of Scotland, was exempted from the scourge of cholera. During the first fortnight of the year 1837, however, we were subjected to an epidemic, which, if the number affected by it be taken into account, was only less serious than the Asiatic scourge. This was the influenza, which scarcely a single family, and few individuals here escaped. It was attended by fever, pain in the bones, often violent affection of the head, severe cough, and stifling, and great prostration of strength. Within the short period mentioned above, eleven persons, most of them old or infirm, were cut off out of this limited population, and the constitutions of many received a shock by which their lives will have been shortened.

† The proportion in the sea-faring population is 1 in 19.5; in the agricultural do., 1 in 19.3; a striking proof of the operation of a law.

tion inland for several miles.* To the west of the hornblende, limestone, apparently of primitive formation, prevails to the western boundary. Several veins of it occur in the greywacke, and were at one time extensively wrought for burning. Immediately beyond the western boundary, on the opposite side of the burn, it is still largely and successfully wrought for the same purpose. A small granite vein, the only instance of this rock known in the parish, appears in the limestone, on both sides of the burn, at this point. The limestone here is remarkable for the excessive contortions which its structure presents.

A large mass of diluvial clay forms the upper part of the Knockhead to the east of Whitehills, and has long been wrought for the manufacture of bricks and tiles. Numerous small boulders are found in it containing petrifications. Among these are Belemnites, Cornu ammonis, &c. also occasional impressions of vegetables.†

Fish.—The various kinds of fish common on the east coast, including the herring and salmon, frequent the Moray Frith opposite to this parish. The herring has visited our coast in rather decreased numbers for several years. Haddocks are generally found most abundant after a continuance of easterly winds. During several past seasons, they have appeared in unprecedented numbers.

There are found on the shores of this parish numerous stones bored and honeycombed in a singular manner.‡ In the holes are found generally small shell fish, called *pholas*. These are understood to be furnished with an acid, by means of which they excavate for themselves in the rock the curious habitation which it has been intended that they should occupy.

Plantations.—The plantations consist of Scots fir, with some mixture of larch, beech, and other trees fitted to the poorer soils; but, the subsoil being very generally close and retentive, they cannot be said to be remarkably thriving. Where this unfavourable influence is absent, the kinds specified appear to answer very well.

* These are vulgarly known by the name of “Beenie blues” or “Blue heathens.” Many of them have been removed in the progress of agriculture. The method of breaking them is by kindling a fire on the upper surface of the stone, and then suddenly changing its temperature by an affusion of cold water. In this way Hannibal excavated a path through the Alps; and it is said to be generally employed in Africa at the present day.

† The geology and botany of this district have been scientifically investigated by John Shier, Esq. Lecturer on Natural History in Marischal College, Aberdeen.

‡ These, placed under a bed, are believed by some to be a protection against nightmare! Superstitions, some of them too ridiculous to be mentioned, still linger among the more ignorant. It is a humiliating fact, that two women here, a mother and daughter in succession, the latter of whom died lately, obtained their livelihood chiefly by pretending to practise the black art. Their practice lay *not* “in their own country.”

Hard-wood trees are vigorous and healthy in the vicinity of the Castle of Boyn, where, though so much under the influence of the sea air, they prove the perfect congeniality of our climate to the more valuable kinds of native wood, when enjoying the combined advantages of shelter and fertile soil. The orchard of the castle yields abundant crops of the black and red wild cherry.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

History.—There is a manuscript history of the town and parish of Banff in the hands of Patrick Rose, Esq. Sheriff-clerk, drawn up by his late father, which contains some notices of the ancient land-owners of this district. The same gentleman possesses the decret of disjunction of Banff from this parish, of which it formerly was a part, dated 17th June 1635. Plans of nearly the whole lands of the parish are in the hands of the noble proprietor.

By tradition this parish is held to have been the scene of an engagement with the Danes, at a point near the old church. Accordingly, a trench, filled with bones of a large size, is known to exist on the north side of the road, about thirty yards from the churchyard. The field to the north of the road is at the present day known by the name of the “Arrdanes,” and another on the rising ground to the east is called the “Sword-danes;” names believed to carry in them the remembrance of the position of two several divisions of the invading Northmen, armed with arrows and with swords. Was this the battle in which Indulf, the Scottish King, was slain, A. D. 968? It took place “*in littore Boinæ*.” Yet it may be fairly doubted whether Cullen, also within the district of Boyne, has not a preferable claim to the honour of having been the locality of that battle. More probably this was one of the engagements under Malcolm II. contemporaneous with those at Gamrie and Cruden. The connexion of the patron saint of the parish with that king, and the known taste of the latter for building churches, in acknowledgement of his victories, and restoring those wasted in his wars, favours the supposition, that the church of this parish, dedicated to St Brandon,* had owed its existence or restoration to his liberality in connexion with such an event as is supposed in its neighbourhood.†

* Brandon was a monk of the order of St Benedict, who died about A. D. 1000. His festival was held on 16th May. Brandon fair, now held in Banff, formerly, it is understood, in “*Branman How*,” near the old church, takes place on 26th May, N. S. He had been held in great estimation and personal friendship by Malcolm II. previously to Malcolm’s victorious career against the Danes as King of Scotland, which dignity he only obtained in 1003, after the date of Brandon’s death.

† The events referred to in the text seem to warrant us in asserting, what is not generally known, that Scotland, at least, has been saved from slavery, not once only, by a “battle of the Boyne.”

Antiquities.—Various military antiquities, discovered here, are worthy of notice; some of them, perhaps, connected with the Danish engagement referred to. To the west of the locality, described in connection with it, on the rocky eminences on the north side of the road, two circular encampments may still be traced. Immediately below the upper one of these, on the southern declivity, stands a large perpendicular stone, surrounded by a causeway. A little beyond this, on the opposite side of the road, not far from the site of the old mansion-house of Buchragie, may be traced the huge remains of what may possibly have been a Roman camp. On a field lying to the north-east of the manse, and on the south side of the Banff and Portsoy road, there may be traced a large circular excavation, supposed to mark the site of an ancient encampment. In this neighbourhood, and over the district, numerous flint arrow-heads have been turned up by the plough; many of them of a yellow kind of flint, not found in boulders in this part of the country. A short Roman* sword was found in the bogs of Reattie, and lodged in the armoury at Duff House. In the immediate neighbourhood of the manse offices, on the west side, a stone coffin with its contents was found a number of years ago, and deposited again in its place. A huge red stone is said to have stood about this spot before the erection of the offices.

Three Druidical circles are known to the writer in the parish; one near the parish church, another within a mile to the north-east, and a third on the farm of Bankhead. At some distance to the south of the last, on the same rising ground, known by the name of the Lodgehills, are to be seen a number of large stones, not, however, circularly disposed, commonly called the Brannan Stanes. Under one of these, an urn, containing coins, said to have been much defaced, was found a number of years ago. On the field to the north-east of the manse, already described, and on the line of an old road, was found† a few years ago, a seal, composed of fine clay slate, at first supposed to bear the arms of Archbishop Sharp, who was a native of Banff. These have been since proved to be the armorial bearings of Bishop James Kennedy, also of St Andrews, who founded the University of St Andrews, in

* The great Roman road to Burghead is believed to have crossed by the hill of Barry, near the Knockhill. A hypothesis is hazarded by some, and maintained on plausible grounds, that the Knock hill is the Mons Grampius of Tacitus.

† By Mr Alexander Cumming, in Craigherbs, who himself takes considerable interest in matters of antiquity; and although a man of limited education, has no mean powers as a writer of verses.

the fifteenth century. Around the family arms, and the cross of St Andrew, surmounted by the mitre, appears the legend "Jacobus Episcopus Sancti Andre." Near the north-east corner of the wood of Whyntie,* is an artificial mound, known by the name of the Gallows cairn, on which tradition of course testifies that many suffered by the righteous or capricious decree of their feudal lord. Unplanted avenues have been left, from this point towards the mansions of Boyn, Inchdrewer, &c., report says, as a memorial of the right enjoyed by the surrounding barons in common, of awarding to their vassals, at pleasure, the crowning and peculiar privilege of the place. Another gallows cairn exists in the parish, on the summit of the Lodgehills, deriving its name from having been the place of execution of a man and woman, who conspired in putting to death the husband of the latter, farmer in Midtown of Badenspik, in Fordyce parish, about the beginning of last century. About thirty yards to the east of the steading, on the farm of Dallachy, below the old road, five or six urns, containing the remains of bones, were found a few years ago. They were of rude construction, except one, which is said to have been well shaped, ornamented with diagonal lines crossing each other, and surmounted by a lid and handle. The adjoining houses were built on a reputed Elf hillock. Another similar urn was found a few years ago at the base of a small circular mound, at the lower extremity of the plantation extending from Craig-herbs to the turnpike road. Many such barrows have been opened in this part of the country. There is much reason to doubt whether they were Roman.

Eminent Persons.—The parish had the honour of giving birth to Thomas Ruddiman, the eminent Latin grammarian, and librarian to the Faculty of Advocates, whose father, James Ruddiman, was farmer at Raggal. His name does not appear in the parochial register, which only commences at a distance of above twenty years after the time of his birth, said to have been in the year 1674. Here also was born a personage whose fame is of a different character, Mrs Buchan, the founder of a religious sect

* The late Mr James Morrison, tenant of Whyntie obtained unexpected publicity for his name, as being the subject of a famous letter by the Lord Advocate to the Sheriff-substitute of the county in December 1803, which, having found its way to Mr Whitbread, furnished him with an occasion of effectively vindicating the principles of British liberty. Persons from England visited Whyntie, expecting to see a representative of the Hambdens of other days. Mr Morrison declined a proposal by his fellow parishioners, to institute an action at law in this case, to be carried on at their own expense.

in the west of Scotland. An account of her history may be found in Chambers' Scottish Biographical Dictionary. She is said to have made several proselytes in her native parish.

Parochial Registers.—The parochial register of baptisms appears to have been kept with considerable regularity from 1700, the date of the first entry, till about 1770.* From this period till 1827, greater or less irregularity and incompleteness are observable. Till 1827, the marriage register consists of only a few fragments, having reference to the beginning of last century. There is no proper register of burials. Some interesting minutes of session are preserved for the period intervening between 1698 and 1706.†

Proprietors.—The Earl of Seafield, who succeeded the late Earl of Findlater and Seafield, is sole proprietor. The chief part of the land formerly belonged to the family of Ogilvie of Boyn, Baronets. This family, in common with the families of Findlater and of Banff, (the latter of which is represented by Abercromby of Birkenbog, Bart.) was a branch of the house of Airlie. Sir Walter Ogilvie of Boyn, great-grandson of Sir Walter Ogilvie of Auchterhouse,

* The witnesses, whether two or more, appear to have been uniformly of the same Christian name with the child baptized, if a male, for instance, under date April 10, 1738, "George Allan, in Upper Blairmade, had a lawfull son baptized, called Alexander,—Alexander Irvine, minister of Fordyce; Alexander Law, younger, Alexander Peterkine in Newmill, and Alexander Ogilvie in Culfin, witnesses." In the event of the name being an uncommon one, a difficulty would occur in finding the qualified witnesses. In one instance, at the baptism of a "Theodore," the parties of this name introduced are designed "godfathers."

† Besides an annual payment by the session of L.4 Scots "as their proportion of the Presbytery burse of Fordyce" for the support of a student of divinity, I find collections, from time to time, for such objects as the following;—"The rebuilding of Kinghorn harbour,"—"the redemption of Christians taken by the barbarians,"—"for the inhabitants of Leith,"—"Auchmedden's harbour at Pennan,"—"building an bridge over Dee, at Pittarch." The discipline then in use was rigid, not only in the methods of correction which it employed, but also in the inflexible determination with which it was extended over the whole population. Probably the ministry thus acquired too much of a magisterial character, and its influence in training up "a willing people" was impaired. But the fault was that of the age, and we would do well, avoiding the extreme opposite error of our own times, to unite with the use of more winning methods than theirs, some degree of the vigour with which they prosecuted their warfare against sin, and by means of which they were the honoured instruments of elevating their country to a moral rank unequalled in the history of the world. Take an instance in an act of the Synod of Aberdeen, intimated January 1705; "As to the restraining the horrid sin of drunkenness, appoint ministers and elders to deal privately within their bounds with any they know to be inclined to this vice. And if they abstain not, that then in the general they intimate from pulpit, without mentioning any person's name, that there are some persons in the congregation known to the minister and session to be given to the sin of drunkenness, who have not obeyed private admonition, and therefore they are again warned to reform,—otherwise if they persist, they are to be then brought before the congregation, and there rebuked. And if, after all, they continue in this horrid sin, or prove contumacious, that then their names be intimated from pulpit as grossly scandalous persons . . . and that this act be duly execute by all sessions without respect of persons."

and son of Sir Walter Ogilvie of Auchleven, (who acquired, by his marriage, the baronies of Deskford and Findlater,) was common ancestor of the families of Ogilvie of Boyn, of Dunlugas or of Banff, and of Stratherne. He got the thanedom of Boyn by marriage, in 1485, with Margaret, daughter of Sir James Edmonstone of that Ilk. Boyn continued in the family from father to son, till the beginning of last century, when Sir Patrick Ogilvie of Boyn, one of the Senators of the College of Justice, having got into great debt, by that means broke up the estate, and it passed to the ancestor of its present owner, the Earl of Seafield. The family, in males, is now said to be extinct. A superiority on the estate is still held by a collateral female branch, in virtue of which the husband of the party, Admiral Maitland, stands enrolled on the list of freeholders entitled to vote for a member for the county of Banff.

The House or Castle of Boyn, the family mansion on the Boyn water, near its junction with the sea, is still standing, and, as a ruin, is tolerably entire.* This mansion exhibits the remains of considerable beauty and magnificence. In front may be traced a double row of gardens and terraces, with flights of stairs. The highly picturesque scenery by which it is surrounded, such as it is remarked that limestone districts are generally distinguished by, is one of the chief objects of interest in this part of the country. The ruins of a more ancient residence and place of strength† are still to be observed, remarkably

* It was dilapidated about or soon after the middle of last century, when the roof was removed, and the hewn stones used for buildings in the parish.

† When "the gallant Montrose" was carrying devastation among the Covenanters of the north, we read that "from Findlater, he marches to the Boyne, plunders the country, and burns the bigging pitifully, and spoilized the minister's goods, gear, and books. The laird himself keeps the craig of Boyne, wherein he was safe; but his hail lands, for the most part, were thus burnt up and destroyed."

The minister thus treated was Mr William Chalmer, who was succeeded by Mr Patrick Chalmer, he probably by Mr Peter Darling, who died in 1730. The succession from that date is as follows; Mr Alexander Philp, translated from Deskford, died 1738; Mr James Anderson, translated to Cullen 1752; Mr James Dunbar, died 1785; Mr Alexander Milne, died February 1830, having been ordained in November 1785. Mr Philp was the first in the Presbytery apparently settled under a presentation. When laid on the Presbytery table by Lord Findlater's secretary, the obnoxious document seems to have considerably perplexed them. "After reasoning," however, they simply appointed a meeting at Boyndie "for sounding the inclinations of the people," and "moderating in a call." Against this course, the patron's agent protested. "The wadsetters, elders, and heads of families" were found unanimously for Mr Philp, and, "accordingly, a call was subscribed with great peace and harmony." Mr Philp was asked his mind "aenent call and presentation." He declared his opinion that "a spiritual and ecclesiastical relation betwixt pastor and people could only be fixed by ecclesiastical persons, and founded on spiritual considerations; yet having such a clear and legal document of the inclinations of the people of Boyndie, and understanding the mind of his brethren, he hopes it will give no of-

situated on the west side of the burn, on a precipitous rock by the brink of the sea, below the mansion, to which, under the influence of advancing civilization and refinement, it had given place.

Ogilvies also possessed, probably as wadsets, the smaller estates of Baldavie, Culfin, and Buchragie. The foundation of the mansion-house of the last family, with the garden adjoining, may be traced on the rocky eminence to the west of the old church. The estate of Reattie belonged to a family of the name of Dunn.

This was one of the first parishes in the north of Scotland in which the alternate husbandry was practised. It was introduced here about 1754, upon the farm of Craigherbs, by the father of the last Earl of Findlater, at that time himself Lord Deskford, and heir-apparent to the estates.* It is stated in the old Statistical Account, however, that, even at the date of its publication, at the distance of about fifty years, it had not come into general practice. The same Nobleman laid out the older plantations in the parish. Those in the eastern part of the parish and along the coast side road, (partly now removed), with the numerous clumps adorning the hills of Boindie to the south-east, were designed to bound the grounds of a mansion projected by Lord Deskford about the present site of the manse. An excambion had been nearly effected with Lord Banff, in order to acquire the hills to the south-west, with the view of completing an amphitheatre of ornamental plantations from three to four miles in diameter, the whole extent of which would have been in view from the commanding situation of the house. Circumstances, however, led to the abandonment of this grand project. It is understood that the common furze or whins with which the parish is now over-run, was unknown here until sown by this Earl of Findlater, for the use of the fishermen in curing their fish.†

fence, if he be removed from Deskford conform to the rules of this Church, he do not decline any civil right consistent with the principles of the Church of Scotland, and so does accept of said presentation, as giving him a legal right and title to the stipend of that paroch." This is a remarkable record, on the one hand, of the views entertained by a patron at that period of the effect of his right in extinguishing the influence of the congregation, and, on the other hand, of the view under which our forefathers were able to reconcile the acceptance of a presentation to their principles.

* An anecdote is often related as illustrative of the liberal views of this distinguished improver. The overseer of the above farm complained that his labours and anxieties for the success of the turnip field were frustrated by the thefts of the neighbourhood. "That precisely answers my purpose," was the answer, "having learned their value in this way, they will not fail to sow a few for themselves." It is apprehended that his Lordship's enlightened views had not extended to the necessary connection between the "right moral and the right economic condition of society." By the way, this Nobleman did not maintain his character for liberality in all things, having acted on the principle of tolerating no Roman Catholic tenants.

† The green shoots, when bruised, are occasionally used as a winter food for horses.

III.—POPULATION.

Dr Webster is said to have stated the population in 1755 at 994 souls. The baptism register shows an average of about 35 births annually during the first twenty years of last century, while before and after the said date of 1755, the average appears reduced to 29. According to the present proportion between the population and the number of births, this would indicate the population to have been nearly at the former period what it was found to be at last census, and greater at the latter period than Dr Webster's report makes it appear. But the proportion of births to the population must have been greater then than now, in consequence of the new agricultural economy employing chiefly unmarried servants. This reconciles the state of the fact, as recorded by Dr Webster, with the large number of births appearing at the same period in the register, and forbids us to estimate the population at the more remote period at above 1100 or 1200. It thus appears, however, that a decrease had taken place during the former half of last century. Accordingly, there appears to have been anciently a number of hamlets in the lower part of the parish, in places which are now wholly depopulated. The introduction of large farms, joined to the exclusion of the families of servants and labourers, has operated in reducing the population in the same district to the present day, although more than a compensating increase till recently was taking place in the villages and in the moorland district in the south end of the parish.

Amount of the population in 1831,* . . . 1501

A large proportion of the youths are now engaging in trades in the neighbouring towns.

| | |
|--|------------|
| Number of population in the village in 1831, (about one-half seafaring), | 623 |
| country, | 878 |
| The yearly average of births for the last seven years, | 38 |
| deaths, about | 25 |
| marriages, | 6 |
| The number of persons under 15 years of age in 1831, | 473 |
| between 15 and 30 | 465 |
| 30 and 50, | 327 |
| 50 and 70, | 159 |
| above 70, | 77 |
| | <hr/> 1501 |
| Unmarried men, &c. above 50, | 15 |
| women above 45, | 33 |
| Average number of children in each family, | 1½ |

* By the census of 1841 the population is the same as in 1831, *to a unit*; but there is in reality a small decrease, about 15 tinkers happening to be encamped in the parish on the day of the enumeration.

No resident proprietor.

Our population comprehends three insane, six fatuous, besides several persons of marked weakness of intellect ; none deaf and dumb.

The condition and habits of the fishing population of Whitehills are deserving of particular notice. They form a society quite distinct from the agricultural labourers residing in the same village, intermarrying almost exclusively among themselves,* or occasionally with neighbouring seafaring communities. Hence they may be generally distinguished from the agricultural inhabitants by their personal appearance, their complexion being clear, and their females possessing superior comeliness. The herring-fishery has afforded them opportunities of improving their circumstances, of which a certain number of them have availed themselves, thus attaining a degree of comfort in their dress and in the style of their houses and furniture, quite superior to what their forefathers enjoyed. Evil, however, has resulted from the herring-fishery in the case of those of less frugal habits, who, by the prospect of large returns, have been permitted to incur debts to an amount which keeps them permanently embarrassed, while it exercises a pernicious influence on their character and energies. As amongst others of the same class, the wife occupies a far more important position in the family than in other situations of life. While, in addition to the ordinary domestic duties, she is subjected to the daily labour of baiting the lines and preparing the fish for sale, to her belongs the formidable task of carrying the fish to market, often a distance of many miles. But the prosperity of the family depending upon the success with which the last duty is discharged, she adopts a tone, and is allowed an influence which in another condition of life would appear little consistent either with feminine propriety or domestic order. The introduction of the herring-fishery indeed has in some degree lessened her pretensions, rendering the family greatly dependent upon a source of emolument in which her exertions are little available ; but she still usually claims the disposal of the entire proceeds of the white fishery, prosecuted throughout ten months of the year, as her exclusive prerogative.

The seafaring inhabitants of Whitehills are not without some of the faults with which the class are generally chargeable ; these

* The relative numbers of the few prevailing names are as follows : 117 Watsons, 47 Lovies, 25 Adamsons, 25 Findlays, 21 Ritchies.

chiefly arising from a natural sanguineness of temper, and the influence, perhaps, of the necessary avocations of the females upon themselves and their children, who suffer from the want of constant maternal superintendence. But no impartial observer will deny to them the credit of being, on the whole, superior to most other fishing communities on this coast. Many of them are intelligent, and strictly exemplary in their moral conduct, and regular in their observance of the ordinances of religion, which has hitherto, in the case of a growing number, been, it is believed, better than the form of Godliness. They show no disposition to cast themselves, or their aged parents and relatives, upon public charity; but, regarding it as a degradation, submit to privations in order to avoid it. They are cleanly in their habits; and fish cured by them consequently bears a superior reputation. Most of them having their stated customers, it is not uncommon for them to deal with these by means of an open account, enjoying the confidence of their employers, and supplying their commodity without the formality of a noisy contest about the price.

An advance in civilization has here had its usual influence in postponing the period of marriage, which, in fishing communities, usually occurs at a very early stage of life. The males continue to form a part of their father's family, until they have acquired the means first of paying a fourth share of a herring-boat and nets, and then, from the proceeds of this, of building and furnishing a house; and, among the more respectable, the building, independent of the furniture, has generally amounted to L.100. They have not continued fully to maintain the high reputation for purity established for them by the fact, that, till within the last twelve years, there had scarcely been an illegitimate birth in the community in the memory of man.

The farm-servants are the class of the population, morally and economically, in the least satisfactory state. They are hired half-yearly, in the public market, on a purely commercial principle; and many of them seldom re-engage to their former masters. A small number of them appear regularly in their places in the house of God, or form any proper connection with ecclesiastical society. Being mere sojourners in a parish, and unknown to minister or people, they are not missed; and, were it otherwise, feel themselves independent of public opinion.

The presbytery of Fordyce, some time ago, and the synod of

Aberdeen, and various other synods more recently, have taken up the subject, especially recommending that diets of catechizing should be held after each half yearly term, for enabling the minister to form an acquaintance with persons having come into the parish, and to recommend to them such means of improvement as the parochial institutions may present. This, or some similar arrangement, is demanded by the circumstances of the class under review. The labouring classes suffer generally from their want of opportunity for retirement; but many of the farm-servants are, besides, subjected to the powerful demoralizing influence of young persons being congregated in a bothy, or out-kitchen, without either the humanizing ties, or the wholesome restraints, of the domestic institution. Again, in many cases, their early education has been extremely defective; so that although they can in some sense read, they want the inducements to the pursuit of knowledge possessed by those to whom the art is a ready channel of knowledge, in the use of which no sensible effort is required. With wages varying from L.5 to L.7 in the half-year, they not unfrequently enter into the married state; their wives and families being left at a distance without active employment, and without the benefit of paternal authority and care. Not having the means even of supplying their offspring with adequate food and clothing, they cannot suitably educate them. At the earliest possible age, their children are sent to earn their subsistence, when, removed from all parental oversight, and often neglected by their employers, they perhaps lose any good they have learned, and they grow up to furnish new instances of the evils of which we complain.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.—

| | | |
|---|-----|-------------------|
| Land cultivated, about | . | 3600 acres Scots. |
| Uncultivated, waste, or in pasture, about | 650 | |
| *Might profitably be cultivated, perhaps | 100 | |
| Plantations, about | . | 600 |

The wood is regularly cared for, and thinned on approved principles. The average rent of arable land is about L.1 per Scots acre; some of the best farms, however, being still held under old leases at a low rent.

* That is by employing hired labourers. Land not capable of being profitably reclaimed in this way may contribute eminently to the prosperity and comfort of persons improving it by their own industry, and ultimately not less to the rental of proprietors. Allotments of this kind, on judicious principles, are, in every view, a great public benefit.

The common breeds of cattle in the parish are the polled Buchan kind, or a Banffshire breed with horns. A Teeswater bull was introduced by John Wilson, Esq. Brangan, in 1829; and there are now four or five bulls of this kind in the parish, and consequently a considerable stock of the cross-breed is now reared, which are fed off when rising three or four year old for the London market. A large flock of sheep is kept on the farm of Mill of Boindie; but this stock is not kept on any of the other farms, there being no range of suitable pasture for the purpose. It would contribute to the improvement of the light dry soil in the low part of the parish to consume turnips on the ground with sheep, as it would tend to obviate the bad effects of frequent cultivation on soil of this character. Wheat husbandry has been practised to a considerable extent within the last ten years in the low part of the parish, but it is again very much abandoned. Independently of the soil being generally a sand, the climate on an average of years is incapable of maturing other than an inferior sample of this grain; and the coarseness of the straw is a serious objection in a cattle-feeding district. The Chevalier barley is also generally abandoned, being found, although a fine sample, to be too late, and to yield a deficient return in quantity.

Leases now granted are for nineteen years. The houses of the farmers are generally very superior. The offices have undergone a great improvement of late years. For houses the landlord generally allows one or two years rent in whole at the expiry of the lease. The more recent erections have far exceeded this allowance. For the improvement of waste land L.5 per acre is allowed, for which $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum is charged from the tenant. Several of the farms on the coast are enclosed with dry stone dikes. One of the principal improvements executed in this parish of late years, has been the reclaiming of the marshes lying along the course of the burn of Boindie, chiefly on the farm of John Milne, Esq. at Mill of Boindie. Frequent draining, chiefly with stones from the sea-beach, about the size of road metalling, is now going forward on the farms of Alexander Rainy, Esq. factor for the Earl of Seafield. Alexander Murray, Esq. at Whitehills, intends to put the same plan in practice on his fields at Lochside, which, when thoroughly drained, will confirm the reputation of his farm as the most highly improved in this district.*

* This farm, Kirktown of Boindie, affords an instructive example of the effect of

The most spirited improvements have gone forward on the farms of Reattie and Little Reattie, extending to about 400 acres Scots, during the occupancy of the present tenant, Andrew Longmore, Esq. Within the last nineteen years, besides building houses to the amount of L.2000, he has executed the following improvements: 50 acres of waste land reclaimed, at an expense, he estimates, of L.12 up to L.24 per Scots acre; 30,000 ells of stone draining, for 10,000 of which the stones were quarried; 8000 ells of tile-draining; 8000 ells of thorn hedges planted last season; 6000 additional to be planted next season, plants furnished by the proprietor; a formidable improvement in blasting and removing above 3000 tons of hornblende blocks sunk in the soil, the removal of some single stones costing above L.5; an expensive but productive improvement on the haugh land, in connexion with the cutting of a new course for the burn. The climate upon Little Reattie is sensibly improved, and the harvest considerably earlier, since the draining was executed. Turf drains have been employed on this farm and elsewhere, but have been found very temporary in their operation, being destroyed especially by moles. The system of frequent draining now commenced, if carried forward, promises to effect a great transformation on the agricultural character of this parish, a large part of which is rendered infertile by wetness. A vast quantity of fish refuse, bone-dust, and sea-weed is annually added to the self-produced manure of the farms. The burning of kelp was prohibited by Lord Deskford, with a view to the agricultural improvement of the parish. Irrigation is practised on the meadows at the mouth of the burn of Boindie; and as that stream has considerable flats along its course, and its waters are of a fertilizing nature, perhaps the practice might be advantageously extended. Not a little slovenliness is still displayed in the management of farm-yard dung.

The liberal encouragement afforded by the celebrated improver, Lord Findlater, (Lord Deskford), has doubtless had an important

good farming. It extends to nett 60 acres Scots, with 20 acres of pasture, chiefly links. The soil is chiefly very light, though dry and kindly. For several years after 1830, when it fell into the hands of the present tenant, he sunk more than the rent annually. It now yields, on an average, not less than 200 quarters oats and barley, the former weighing, per boll, 42 to 44 pounds, the latter 54 to 56. 2000 stones of hay, partly consumed on the farm; above 50 bolls of potatoes. The stock of cattle grazed and kept on turnips and straw is, 1 Teeswater bull, 8 Buchan cows, and 30 rising stock, 10 of which are fed off annually for the London market, weighing from 45 to 60 Dutch stone; 12 sheep, 2 pigs, 4 work-horses, 1 riding do. The course of cropping is a five shift, with two grasses. There is careful drying, early labouring, and abundant manuring.

influence to the present day in the improvement of the parish, through the instrumentality of the wealth which it enabled the families who have been long in possession to acquire. The Noble family who now inherit the estates also pursue an encouraging and judicious system of letting, exacting a suitable rent, but never ejecting an industrious tenant who makes a fair offer, or agrees to pay the rent fixed by a competent valuator.

Fisheries.—The herring-fishing is prosecuted at Whitehills from the beginning or middle of July to the beginning or middle of September. From nineteen to twenty-seven boats, each containing four men, have fished here since 1830. They have caught, on an average, during these years, only ninety-six cranes per boat, and have been paid on an average, 11s. per crane. A boat equipped for sea costs L. 66; and a fleet of nets, L. 75. The former will run twelve years; the latter only six. Salt is brought chiefly from Liverpool; barrel-wood from Norway. The herrings when cured are exported to Germany and Ireland. The West India market is now lost, but as a compensation the prohibitory duty in Russia has lately been reduced to a moderate amount. One cooper and three women wait on shore for each herring-boat. Coopers' wages are 12s. per week; in the fishing season, 14s. and 15s. Women receive for gutting and packing a full barrel, 7s. At this rate, with a sufficient supply of work, they might earn 5s. by a day's work. The expense of curing a barrel of herrings is about 8s. besides the price of the fish. The abolition of the bounty is supposed to have had no bad effect,—the trade being still under the regulation of Government inspectors, who withhold their mark from an inferior article.

Sixteen boats, each carrying four men, during the remainder of the season, fish for haddocks, &c. They go to sea at least 120 days in the year, and average not less than twelve dozen haddocks per boat each day, which will amount to about 23,000 dozen haddocks per annum, besides about 10,000 cod, ling, and skate. Haddocks will bring 10d. per dozen, and the other fish from 4d. to 5d. each. The above is a moderate calculation. The fishermen receive about two bolls meal annually for their refuse, and about an equal value for black oil manufactured by themselves. The fish are usually sold within the district, but, in consequence of the great abundance caught last season, most of the boats carried a cargo to the south, as it was customary to do annually before the introduction of the herring-fishing.

About L. 60 yearly rent, on an average, is drawn by the proprietor from the fishing-boats. The proprietor furnishes each crew with one boll meal and 100 merks Scots, to aid in buying a new boat once in seven years, if required. For about an acre and a quarter of potato land, and the use of the boat, a crew pay L. 5 yearly rent. A good boat for the haddock-fishing costs L. 17, and will run eleven or twelve years. Instead of receiving the above allowance, and giving up the boat to the proprietor at the end of seven years, the fishermen are now agreeing to pay L. 4 per annum each crew for right of fishing, including potato land, with freedom to possess boats of their own. Men above sixty years of age are allowed to fish free of rent. Muscle bait is brought annually from Sutherlandshire. Price of a boat's cargo, L. 3, besides the labour of gathering.

The lobster-fishery is prosecuted by five or six boat crews by means of basket-nets, and the produce sent to London periodically in the well smacks. 1100 lobsters were caught last season, price 4d. each. The large number which die greatly increase the price to the purchasers.

The salmon-fishery has been carried on of late years by bag-nets at Blackpots, near Whitehills, with progressively increasing success. The average produce from 1834 to 1837 amounted to about L.225 yearly. The salmon are either iced, or boiled and pickled with vinegar, and forwarded to the London market. The rent, understood to be paid by a subtenant for the fishery carried on here and at Findochty, may be estimated for the Boindie station, at L. 50, one-half of the whole, besides twenty per cent. on the fish caught above a certain amount.

The average gross amount of raw produce may be estimated as follows :—

| | | | |
|--|-----------|---|---|
| 1600 acres grain, 5 qrs. per acre, at L. 1, 7s. 6d. including fodder, L. | 11,000 | 0 | 0 |
| 500 acres turnips, at L. 6 per acre, - - - | L. 3,000 | 0 | 0 |
| 150 acres potatoes, at L. 10 per acre, - - - | 1,500 | 0 | 0 |
| Green crop in whole, - - - - - | 4,500 | 0 | 0 |
| 200 acres hay, at 160 stones per acre, at 6d. per stone, - - - | 1,600 | 0 | 0 |
| 1000 oxen grazed, young and old, at L. 2, 10s. - - - | 2,500 | 0 | 0 |
| Produce of gardens, - - - - - | 40 | 0 | 0 |
| Thinnings of wood, - - - - - | 160 | 0 | 0 |
| Fisheries, - - - - - | 3,000 | 0 | 0 |
| 250 horses grazed, young and old, at L. 3, - - - | 750 | 0 | 0 |
| Other miscellaneous produce, - - - - - | 250 | 0 | 0 |
| | <hr/> | | |
| | L. 23,800 | 0 | 0 |

Manufactures.—A manufacture of bricks, tiles, &c. is carried on at Blackpots, near Whitehills. Eleven hands are employed in

the manufacture in the summer season. In winter, four or five are employed in preparing the clay. In consequence of this last operation being insufficiently performed, the work had fallen into disrepute, and therefore probably has not been a remunerating concern for a considerable time, but, under careful management, it has again begun to command a large trade. The introduction of tile-draining may be expected still greatly to increase it. Price of roofing tiles per hundred, 7s. 6d.; draining do. without bottoms, 3s. per hundred; bricks, 3s. 6d. per hundred.

The bleaching and preparation of threads and stockings for the market was formerly prosecuted extensively at old bridge of Boin-die, in connection with Messrs Robinson's manufactory in Banff. Both the manufactory and bleachfield, with other similar works in this part of Scotland, have been long ago abandoned. At the above point there is now a saw-mill in full employment,*—work executed at 1s. 3d. per 100 feet of wood. Several miles up the stream, on the Boindie side, there are two meal-mills. On the burn of Boyu, there is a wool carding mill, largely employed, chiefly for country work, where the weaving and dyeing of cloth is also carried on. On this stream, there were formerly two lint-mills; one is abandoned, and the other little employed. Proceeding downwards from these, there is a flour and barley mill, and a meal mill. The astriction of lands to particular mills is now in the course of being abolished; and the multures have been commuted into a money payment with the rent. The multures, including service on some lands previously to this change, amounted to one-eleventh of the whole grain milled. The charge for milling oats is from 6d. to 8d. per boll.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Market-Town, &c.—The nearest market-town on the east side of the parish is Banff, at the distance of a mile and a half from the boundary. Portsoy stands at a like distance on the west. In each of these, there is a post-office and a ready market for grain, and in the former, for the produce of the dairy. The only village in the parish is Whitehills, already described. The turnpike road from Banff to Portsoy extends above three miles within this parish from east to west; and the branch which diverges from it to Keith and Huntly on the left, extends a distance of about two miles to the point at which it joins Ordiquhill. These, and the several county roads pass the streams by which the parish is bounded by

* In connection with it, there is now a pit for kyanizing wood, &c.

bridges mostly sufficient, at ten separate points. There is a small harbour at Whitehills, having ten to eleven feet depth of water at spring-tides, serving for the landing of herrings in the fishing season, and admitting two or three vessels for the exportation of herrings, and the importation of salt, coals, &c. There is another small harbour a little to the east, near to the brick-work at Blackpots, intended for the exportation of tiles, and like the former, affording accommodation for the prosecution of the herring-fishery. At this point, too, the salmon-fishery is carried on.

Ecclesiastical State — The church is situated at the distance of five miles from the south-west extremity, and nearly two miles from the north-east extremity of the parish. Since the erection of the new church at Ord, with which 250 of the population, in the remote district, have naturally connected themselves, the situation of the church is sufficiently central and convenient. It was built in 1773, when the old church, the ruins of which still exist in the burying-ground, near the sea, was abandoned. It is comfortably fitted up, and in good repair.

There was left, in the year 1809, by the Rev. James Stewart, a native of the parish, and a clergyman of the Church of England, in the late American colonies, in trust to the kirk-session and the presbytery, a sum now amounting to L.391, intended to yield L.1, 10s. of an annual gratuity to each of six poor persons of the parish, and the same allowance, as a bursary, for defraying the education expenses of six poor boys of the parishioners.

The church affords accommodation for 600 persons. The poor are freely accommodated in the seats attached to the land, and in a gallery held in trust by the kirk-session. The manse was built, for the first time, in its present situation, a year or two after the removal of the church. The old manse is still habitable, not less so than its successor, which is in an insufficient state.* The glebe extends to about seven Scots acres, and may be worth L.7 per annum. The stipend is 15 chalders; equal parts of meal and barley. It has ranged, since the commencement of the writer's incumbency in 1830, from L.172 to L.284. L.8, 6s. 8d. is allowed for communion elements.

There is no chapel of ease, or other additional place of religious worship, within the boundaries of the parish;† but there was

* A very commodious new manse is now nearly finished near the present site, March 1842.

† The Methodists have lately erected a small chapel in Whitehills, the use of which is libera'ly allowed to the writer and his people on Sabbath evenings.

erected, in 1834, at Ord, in the extreme west end of Banff parish, a chapel, intended, partly, for the accommodation of the remote parishioners of Boindie, in which a minister has been ordained, enjoying an allowance of L.20 per annum from the Royal Bounty.

The whole adult population, with more or less regularity, attend the Established Church, except, attending the chapels of Dissenters of different denominations, 35; Methodists, 20; Episcopalians, 12; Roman Catholics, 2; comprehending in all, 69 individuals, and about 20 families.

Divine service is generally well attended, except by the farm-servants, and a certain number of families of the lower classes, chiefly in the village, sunk in poverty and its attendant evils. We certainly are strangers to the nearly uniform decency with which some parochial communities are blessed, whilst, at the same time, we are not without some development of spiritual good. Two facts may be stated, well fitted to illustrate the state of society thus described. During the writer's incumbency, there have been resident in the parish eight women, all except one having families, deserted by their husbands. On the other hand, there are, in the village of Whitehills, from twenty to thirty men, who can conceive and utter an extempore prayer with no less fluency, and with little less propriety, than most educated ministers, and of whom it may be testified, without claiming for them graces in proportion to their gifts, that, on the whole, their conduct is not inconsistent with their profession. There are several meetings for prayer and mutual instruction, of which the writer can speak, among the members of the Established Church; and he believes they have been the means of advancing true religion in some degree in the parish.

The average number of communicants is about 400, besides a proportionate number in the population attached to the Ord Chapel.

There is a parochial association for religious purposes, partly subordinate to a presbyterial association extending over the district. The funds are collected quarterly. A moiety of them, not exceeding one-half, are applicable to religious objects within the parish, as providing books for the Sabbath schools, educating poor children, providing Bibles for the poor. The remainder is destined to be applied for the support of the Bible Society, and such of the General Assembly's schemes for propagating the Gospel at home and abroad, as the contributors may select. There has been collected, during the three years of its existence, on an ave-

rage, about the sum of L.15* annually, of which above two-thirds have been applied to religious objects not in the parish.

There are, besides, two collections yearly, for a Presbyterial Pauper Lunatic Fund, and for the Aberdeen Infirmary; the two together amounting on an average to L.7 Sterling. The whole sum collected in church for charitable objects, is about L.45 per annum. Subscriptions are occasionally entered into, to procure a supply of fuel and clothing for the poor, which have amounted usually to L.12 or L.15. Besides, there have in recent years been large contributions for church extension, new schools, and for the starving Irish and Highlanders.

There are three schools in the parish taught by masters, an infant school, several dame schools, and numerous attended Sabbath schools. The parochial schoolmaster has the minimum salary, with the legal accommodations; but enjoys an interest in the admirably administered bequest of the late Mr Dick. In addition to the common branches, he teaches Latin, Greek, geography, and the higher branches of mathematics. The two additional schools, one of which is at a distance of nearly three miles towards the upper extremity of the parish, and the other is at Whitehills, within a mile and a half, receive, from the liberality of the proprietor, L.8, 9s. 6½d. divided between them, and also three bolls of meal each. Each possesses an excellent school and school-house built by subscription. There is no need of an additional school, except it be for females. Those already in existence might be more conveniently situated. Indeed, since the erection of a new parochial school in the adjoining district of Banff parish, two only, judiciously placed, might be made to serve the wants of the whole community. The union of the two small salaries attached to the additional schools might, in this case, warrant the reduction of the fees, which, although varying only from 2s. 6d. to 3s. 6d. per quarter, are obviously too high for the means of a poor labourer having to support a family out of an income of from L.10 to L.15 per annum. The infant school has recently been instituted in Whitehills, to be supported by voluntary subscriptions from the Honourable Mrs Grant† and others. If well conducted,

* Compare this with L.50 given for whisky by the fish-curers to the persons engaged in the herring-fishery; and this is the merest fraction of what is spent in the same way throughout the year.

† We have since had to lament the removal of this Christian and benevolent lady, by death.

it must exercise an important influence in obviating the unfavourable circumstances, already adverted to, to which the children of a fishing population are peculiarly subjected. The number attending school, including infant and dame schools, and an evening school, about 220 ; Sabbath schools, Ord district excluded, about 170 ; Bible class, ditto, about 80.

The writer does not know any of the community between six and fifteen who cannot read or write. There are a few individuals above fifteen, who, to all useful purposes, labour under this inability. This applies to the resident population. Persons are frequently met with among the migratory class of farm-servants whose education has been totally neglected.

Library.—A parochial library, consisting of an excellent collection of works in religion and general knowledge, has been in existence a good many years. It contains 164 volumes. The subscription is now only 6d. half-yearly.

Friendly Society.—A Friendly Society was in existence in Whitehills ; but it was broken up and the funds divided on the passing of the act for new modelling this class of institutions.

Savings Bank.—The parish schoolmaster acts gratuitously both as parochial librarian and as receiver of deposits for the Banff Central Savings Bank, on the national security system. The fishermen usually deposit their savings in considerable sums, after the herring-fishery, in the common banks, and the other great labouring class, who might have something to lay by, are generally strangers in the parish, and therefore not likely to make deposits in it, even were they inclined to save,—hence the privileges of this institution have not been extensively embraced.

Poor's Funds.—About 40 persons have been accustomed to receive stated parochial relief. At present, the number on the roll is 35. About five persons generally are in the receipt of a weekly allowance at the rate of 1s. each. A quarterly distribution takes place, at which sums of 4s. and 5s. are allotted to the whole poor on the roll. The funds arise from, church collections annually, L.36, 10s. ; interest of money, L.32, 13s. 4d. This does not include Mr Stuart's bequest, recorded above.* It is a peculiarity in our parochial economy, that the poor funds of the fishing and the general population have always been kept distinct from each other. The seafaring community occupy a gallery by themselves, which admits of the separation of their contributions. Part of the

* There is also an annual distribution of nine bolls of meal given by the proprietor.

sum, from which the interest above stated arises, is lent out in their name.*

Fairs.—A fair for the sale of cattle, &c. has been lately instituted at Ordens, in the western part of this parish, appointed to be held eight times in the year, and promises to be a great accommodation for the disposal of fed stock in the winter season.

Public-Houses.—We have five public-houses or spirit-shops in Whitehills, and three in the landward district.† Three, instead of eight, would be a liberal supply for the real wants of the public. However decent the character of their occupiers, the remaining five, in a public view, are to be simply regarded as so many licensed traps, spread over the parish for the demoralization of the unwary traveller or neighbour.

Fuel.—Peat fuel, from the mosses lying to the southward, is still chiefly used for the upper district, and, to a considerable extent, even on the coast. A mixture of peat and wood is generally used for smoke-drying haddocks.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The agricultural state of the parish has changed very remarkably since the date of the last Statistical Account. The small possessions, with their thatched cottages, which were then numerous, have now chiefly disappeared, and spacious fields surrounding insulated, and in some instances elegant buildings have taken their place. The alternate system of husbandry has become firmly rooted. Instead of 60 acres of turnips, we have now 500. Thrashing-mills, not one of which had then been introduced, are now descending even to the class of crofters. The farmers have grown in wealth and luxury, and, in a corresponding degree, in a spirit of honourable enterprise and activity.

The fishing population have also been greatly advanced in their outward condition.

It is to be lamented that no similar improvement has taken place in the condition of a large part of the labouring classes, if we except the increased cheapness of clothing having greatly advanced the comfort of many of them under this head. Elderly single women, for instance, are probably in a worse situation than at the date

* Were the tendency not continually checked, the pauperism of the parish would be greatly increased. There are a number of persons removed a single grade in their circumstances above those on the roll who would at once become a burden on the public funds. When widows are left with families, a public subscription is generally raised, by which, well husbanded, most of them are carried through their difficulties.

† One respectable person, the principal spirit vender in the village, has since abandoned the trade.

of last Account. When able for occasional field labour, earning by this 8d. a day without food, in the summer season they have chiefly to depend for winter sustenance on what they can save from this pittance, a week's industrious application to the spinning wheel yielding them only about sixpence. The male agricultural labourer when married enjoys a bare supply of the necessities of life, and, when overtaken with premature old age, has too often to struggle with this, aggravated by the ills of poverty, or to receive a stinted allowance, or to occupy an unwelcome place in the family of a child. The rate of remuneration for the several branches of labour is probably beyond all direct human control. Yet much might be done by proprietors, masters, and philanthropists generally, to ameliorate the condition of this class, by taking every means to break up their migratory habits, by subjecting them to the influence of domestic instruction and restraints, by the introduction of the hind or cottar system* on large farms, instead of the demoralising influence of the bothy, by encouraging saving habits and the use of savings' banks, by destroying or better regulating the system of hiring in markets, and by using every effort to remove those licensed temptations to drunkenness and improvidence in markets and otherwise, to which reference has been made.

On the whole, it is to be hoped that the morality of the community has advanced since the end of last century. Many things then openly practised are now esteemed more or less disreputable, as, for instance, among many, the drunkenness then esteemed so large an ingredient in good fellowship, profanity, smuggling, &c. It is to be lamented that licentiousness, lying, and reckless habits of backbiting, have hitherto given little evidence of being on the decline. By the blessing of God's Spirit, on the grand and appointed instrument of human regeneration, we trust that another similar period may see these and all kindred obstacles to man's well-being effectually overcome.

* The present and the former Statistical Account contain testimonies to the happy working of this system in districts where it has long prevailed. See Accounts of Langton, Hutton, Berwickshire; Linton, Roxburghshire; also Sir John Sinclair's Analysis of Old Account, p. 261.

Drawn up December 1839.

Revised March 1842.

PARISH OF RATHVEN.

PRESBYTERY OF FORDYCE, SYNOD OF ABERDEEN.

THE REV. JAMES GARDINER, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name, &c.—"RATHVEN," according to the writer of the last Statistical report of this parish, "is said, by those conversant in the Gaelic language, to be derived from two original words, the one signifying 'brake' or 'fern,' and the other 'rock, eminence, or hillock.'" In support of this derivation he adds, "that there is a spot in the neighbourhood of the church called Brakenhaugh, and a farm named Rannachie, *i. e.* the Brakenfield." This, however, is quite an erroneous derivation of the name. The spelling of the term in Gaelic is "*Rath-bheann*," or "*beann*,"—the former meaning a "circle of stones," and the latter "a hill" or "mountain." That this, therefore, is the true etymology of the name, we have only, in order to satisfy ourselves, to look to the Benhill, which overhangs that part of the parish situated towards the south, and examine the numerous cairns found in various parts of it, especially on the Bauds, which shall be duly noticed under the head Antiquities.

Extent and Boundaries.—This parish is situated in the district of the county named Enzie. It extends along the coast, from east to west, 10 miles, and nearly 5 in breadth; and is bounded on the north, by the Moray Frith; on the east and south-east, by the parishes of Cullen and Deskford; on the south, by Deskford and Keith; and on the west, by Bellie. It contains 27,000 Scotch acres, or 33,750 imperial, and 42 $\frac{1}{2}$ square miles. Annual value of the real property in the parish, as assessed in 1815, L.7336.

Topographical Appearances.—Its figure is rather irregular, but approaches nearer to the form of a parallelogram than any other, though the square diminishes considerably towards the east. There is an extensive range of hills stretching from the Benhill on the

south-east, which bounds the southern part of the parish westward. The Benhill, the highest, is 945 feet above the level of the sea, and serves as a land-mark to the fishermen, being seen by them, according to their calculation, at fully fifteen leagues distance. The other two hills, Maud and Adie, are of less elevation, and covered with heath to their summits. They extend, in a westerly direction, to the boundaries of the parish. The Benhill has been much improved of late by the Earl of Seafield causing a carriage-road to be made, which, by a circuitous course, leads to its top, the view from which, in all directions, is most extensive and commanding. Previous to 1744, this hill was covered with heath, but it was then richly planted to the very summit.

Climate and Soil.—The greatest part of the parish has a north-west exposure, and suffers severely from the storms which blow from that quarter. The most prevalent complaints are rheumatism and catarrhs, brought on by the alternations of heat and cold, particularly among the fishermen, who are exposed to all vicissitudes of weather. It may be remarked, that, in the year 1794, notwithstanding the large population of this parish, no medical man thought it worth his while to settle within its boundaries. At present, there are two surgeons and one apothecary in the village of Buckie.

Surface, &c.—The surface may be described as rather mountainous, with some low-lying ground of good quality and considerable breadth from the sea-shore to the base of the hills on the south. The hills, as already mentioned, are covered with heath or moss, and afford very little pasture, the soil being either hard gravel, or of a mossy character resting upon a bottom of clay very retentive of moisture. On the low grounds, part of the soil is a light loam, rich, with a clay bottom; in another part, it is rather thin, and rests on a red kind of clay formed from the debris of the old red sandstone, but at the same time is very productive. Along the sea-shore it is sandy, and covered with an immense quantity of small stones, evidently rounded by the action of the sea, which, during ages long gone past, must have flowed over this part of the country.

Hydrography.—The Moray Frith bounds this parish from east to west, towards the north, for ten miles. There is nothing remarkable with regard to the nature of the water, as to colour, temperature, luminousness, saltiness, or the flowing of the tides. The shore abounds with Medusae, or sea-jellies. The depth of

water at the village of Findochtie, the property of Earl Seafield, is 24 feet, and the breadth of the entrance into the bason, which is well protected, 270; thus affording sufficient water and safe anchorage, if converted into a harbour, for ships of very considerable tonnage. This parish is intersected by several rapid running burns or streamlets, all of which have their source in the high grounds within its bounds, and empty themselves into the sea at Portgordon, Buckie, and Gollachie. There are several medicinal springs. One of these is situated at Burn of Oxhill, and is much resorted to by people from the inland parts of the country with their children, while labouring under hooping-cough; but the benefit resulting from it is believed to be more imaginary than real, as change of air is always known to be of great advantage in this complaint. There are also two chalybeate springs, one at Gollachie, and the other in the immediate neighbourhood of New Buckie, much frequented, particularly the latter, by people who come thither for sea-bathing, and drinking the water of this well. At Findochtie, a spring of a purgative nature, issuing from a rock considerably within flood-mark, is occasionally drunk by the inhabitants, and those who reside in the neighbourhood. There is an abundant supply of perennial spring water, free both from the carbonates of lime and iron.

Mineralogy.—The prevailing strata along the coast bordering this parish, are rocks of the primitive Neptunian series, viz. gneiss, mica-slate, clay-slate, and schist; and the direction of the strata is from north-east to south-west; and the dip of the rocks is north-west and south-east. The angle of elevation varies at different places. Adjacent to Buckie, where the rocks have been laid bare by the action of the sea, some are perceptible at an angle of about 25°, others at 90°. At the north-east part of the parish, near the burn of Cullen, the old red sandstone commences, which is in conjunction with greywacke to the eastward; and the thickness of that bed extending to the westward is very great, particularly where the new red sandstone is found overlying the old red sandstone formation. The new red sandstone appears at that point in nearly horizontal strata, and dips to the south and south-east. The greywacke here, and along the coast, alternates with clay and mica-slate, which reposes on the greywacke. The bed appears to be of considerable thickness. Its direction is from north-east to south-west; and it is the prevailing rock within the parish. But the greywacke is protruded through the clay and mica-slate

at different points along the coast, and in the interior as far to the westward as Buckie. There the clay and mica-slate alternate with thin veins of coarse limestone, till a short way to the westward of the town, where the greywacke and greywacke-slate alternate with seams of mica-slate, and veins of limestone of a reddish colour, arising from the oxide of iron. Within the village of Buckie, there is a part of the old red sandstone formation seen reposing on clay-slate and mica-slate, which is again reposing on greywacke. This micaceous clay-slate is of a greyish colour, and covers a great part of the interior of the parish. Towards the south, it crops out at different points, and is quarried for roofing slates by the Duke of Richmond at Tarriemount and Upper Aldyleth, and by Sir James Gordon, Bart. on his estate of Letterfourie. Limestone is found and wrought at Nether Buckie. At Tarwathie the red sandstone already mentioned is quarried, and used in building. Indeed this is the only quarry of the kind found in the whole county. A very pure quartzzy rock is found in the Benhill, the same as at the hill of Durn, near Portsoy. None, however, of the beautifully variegated serpentine, alternating with beds of marble, talcaceous schist, and hornblende rock, as found at Portsoy, occurs here. Boulders or detached masses of granite and gneiss, intermixed with mica, having their surfaces and sharp edges smoothed down and rounded, evidently by the long-continued friction of water, or action of the air, are of frequent occurrence along the sea-shore, and the Bauds moor. These boulders are sometimes found at the distance of many hundred miles from the rocks from which they have been originally detached, as is the case here, no granite appearing within the parish. These transportations point out the agency of currents and immense irruptions of the ocean passing over the land in particular directions, and with such impetus as to carry along these large and ponderous bodies. From the position of these masses, the direction of such currents can often be ascertained with great certainty. Another most remarkable feature of this part of the country is, that the upper or vegetable soil is so densely mixed with water-worn stones, that, in many places, under a rotation of excellent cropping, these stones appear to form nearly a third part of the surface. They are chiefly of quartz, although intermixed with nodules of lime, felspar, and mica. The felspar, as being in combination with potass, is easily affected by the action of the atmosphere, and a considerable portion of it annually dissolved, which

forms a very productive soil. The nodules of lime produce the same effect.

Zoology.—The ordinary indigenous wild animals found in this parish are, the fox, the polecat, the weasel, the ermine or stoat, the black-rat, now nearly extirpated in many parts of Scotland by the brown or Norway rat, common; the water-rat, the short-tailed field-mouse, the common shrew, and the mole. The roe-deer is found wild in Lord Seafield's woods, near the manse; and the fallow-deer, the hare, the rabbit. The hedgehog, though rare in this county, was found last summer both on the farm of Rannes and in the woods at Letterfourie. The otter breeds every season among the rocks at Findochtie, and in the bogs of Rannes. Along the shore, the porpoise, the grampus, the spermaceti whale, and the seal, are frequently seen. The latter is very destructive to the stake-nets during the salmon-fishing season.

Birds.—The osprey, or sea-eagle, is occasionally seen. The kite, commonly called the glead, is known to build on the lofty trees at Rannes and Cullen House. The kestrel, the goshawk, the merlin, and the sparrow-hawk, with the hen-harrier, not common. The long-eared owl, the barn-owl, and the screech-owl are common. The great ash-coloured butcher-bird, though rare, has been seen in the woods of Letterfourie. The raven, the hooded-crow is very abundant, and destructive to the eggs of the partridge and pheasant; common crow, jack-daw, and carrion-crow.

The starling, the thrush or mavis, the blackbird, the missel-thrush, and the fieldfare, with its companion, the red-wing, occur here in large flocks on the approach of winter. Among the strong-billed smaller birds, we have the yellow bunting, the snow-bunting, the common bunting, and the black-headed bunting. The bullfinch, greenfinch, chaffinch, goldfinch, brown-linnet, mountain-linnet or twite, and house-sparrow are common.

Among the soft, or subulated billed birds, we may enumerate the red-breast, red-start, sedge-sparrow, white-throat, pied-wag-tail, yellow-wagtail, seen on the banks of small burns; whin-chat, stone-chat, and sky-lark, the common wren, golden crested-wren, willow-wren, common creeper, and the hedge-sparrow. The great titmouse, blue titmouse, cole-titmouse, and long-tailed titmouse, though rare, have been seen in the manse garden.

The summer birds of passage are, the house-swallow, martin, swift, generally visible from the 1st to the 12th of May; stone-curlew, landrail, cuckoo, and goat-sucker or night-jar, occasionally

seen at nightfall, flying with great rapidity round the manse and garden.

Birds of Game.—The common grouse, partridge, pheasant, much on the increase, as also the wood-pigeon. The rock-pigeon is found in considerable numbers among the high rocks between the villages of Findochtie and Portnockie.

Grallæ.—The heron, water-hen, woodcock, common snipe, jack-snipe, lapwing, golden-plover, ringed-plover, grey plover, sanderling, and the oyster catcher.

Aquatic Birds.—Cormorant, scart or shag, kittywake, common gull, black-backed-gull, and the herring-gull. The eider-duck, velvet-duck, teal-duck, common wild-duck, and coot. The red-breasted-merganser, razor-billed-auk, puffin, little grebe, and northern diver, in severe winters.

Fishes.—In the burns of Tynet, Gollachie, and Buckie, salmon is sometimes taken, but only when there is a high flood. A considerable number, however, is taken in the stake-nets at Porteasy and Portgordon, on their passage to the mouth of the Spey. The common trout and the eel are the only other species found in these burns.

Along the coast, the following are taken; viz. gowdie, haddock, cod, whiting, coal-fish, (the fry called podleys, colmeys, and sethes,) ling, tusk, halibut, erroneously called turbot; plaice, flounder, sole, sea-perch, and mackerel. The herring, most abundant in this parish some years ago; pilchard, and sprat or garvie; sturgeon, taken lately in a stake-net at Portgordon; skate or flaire; thornback, distinguished by a row of strong spines running along the back; sea-dog, accompanying the shoals of herrings, and used as manure; wolf-fish, sword-fish, and lump-fish, or lump-sucker, with the John Doree, taken occasionally.

The lobster, and crab or parten, are abundant; and, about forty-six years ago, the fishers on the coast entered into a contract for five years, with a London company, to fish for lobsters. The Company furnished the skiffs and tackling, and were reimbursed by instalments. They took all their lobsters at 2½d. a-piece, provided they measured six inches from the point of the nose to the end of the boss; and, when under that size, two were esteemed equivalent to one. The success of the white and herring-fisheries, and the amazing quantities of lobsters caught on the coast of Caithness, which the company purchased at a considerably lower price, put an end to this branch of industry.

The oyster and mussel are not found on this coast. The latter, however, is brought from the Friths of Cromarty and Dornock, lodged among the rocks here, and used as required for bait by the fishermen.

Botany.—In this parish, no particularly rare plants have been found. The peach-leaved bell-flower, and giant bell-flower, are seen in great beauty in the woods around Cullen House. The hemlock, foxglove, agrimony, brooklime, spotted dead nettle, sea tree-mallow, common mallow, hoary plantain, and lesser spearwort, occur in the parish.

Along the shore there are, sea-spurry, sandwort, common sea milk-wort, scurvy-grass, and squill.

In the pleasure-grounds of Cullen House, which mostly lie in this parish, there is a great deal of very valuable wood, consisting of oak, ash, elm, beech, larch, and Scotch fir. Some of the beeches, in point of height and dimensions, may vie with the finest in Scotland. The grounds are extensive, and possess much natural beauty, and are intersected with many lovely walks, and kept in the highest order. The utmost attention has been paid by Sir James Gordon, and Mr Gordon of Cairnfield, in pruning and thinning their plantations; and they have now the pleasing satisfaction of seeing their respective properties highly ornamented and improved, by a great variety of thriving forest trees. The grounds around their mansions are laid out with great taste, and neatly kept.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Eminent Men.—The only man of learning and genius, as far as can be discovered, a native of this parish, was the celebrated Dr Alexander Geddes. He was born at Pathheads, in the year 1737, and was descended from parents who had no claims or pretensions to worldly opulence or honours. His father, named also Alexander, the second of four brothers, was a small crofter on the Arradoul estate. The maiden name of his mother was Janet Mitchell; she was a native of Nether Dalachy, in the parish of Bellie. In their religious tenets, both were Roman Catholics; consequently, young Geddes was of the same persuasion. He was taught to read in the humble mansion of a schoolmistress, whose name was Sellar, and whose goodness of heart he was occasionally accustomed to make mention of to the latest period of his existence. Having exhausted all the

store of knowledge which Mrs Sellar could impart, Geddes was next placed under the care of a student from Aberdeen, whose name was Shearer, and whom the Laird of Arradoul had engaged to educate his two sons. In the family of this gentleman, his instructions were gratuitous. How long he remained at Arradoul is uncertain; but, upon leaving the laird's hospitable mansion, he was, at the age of fourteen, removed to Scalán, a free Roman Catholic seminary in the Highlands, limited to boys destined for that church, whose studies are to be completed in some foreign university. The vale in which this seminary was situated was so deeply excavated and overhung by surrounding hills, as almost to require the perpetual use of the lamp.*

Having attained the age of twenty-one, he was removed from Scalán, in October 1758, to the Scotch College at Paris, where he remained six years; and, although pressed to take a share in the public labours of the college, he returned, however, to Scotland in 1764. Immediately after his arrival, he entered into holy orders, and was appointed to officiate at Dundee. Here he was scarcely settled, when he received an offer to reside with the Earl of Traquair. This offer he readily accepted, and became an inmate of his Lordship's family in May 1765. At this time he had reached his twenty-eighth year, and had resided in his Lordship's for more than a year, when a female relation of the Earl openly professed for him an affection which he could not return, having taken the vow of perpetual celibacy. In a sketch of this kind, it is not expected that we should trace the learned Doctor through the whole course of his eventful life. With regard to the merits of his various literary productions, we think it unnecessary to give an opinion, farther than to state that they exhibit great proofs of talent, perseverance, and profound research; and that there are few, if any, who will not allow that he was an accomplished scholar. He died at London, rather suddenly, after suffering excruciating torture from the nature of his disease, on the 26th February 1802, in the sixty fifth year of his age; and, at his own particular desire, his remains were interred in Paddington

* The reader may form some idea of its dark and melancholy aspect, from the following reply Geddes made to one of his fellow-students, who had obtained leave to visit his friends, and who asked him if he had any commands he could execute. "Pray, be so kind," replied Geddes, "as to make particular inquiries after the health of the sun, and tell him I still hope I shall one day be able to renew the honour of a personal acquaintance with him."

Church-Yard. The late Catholic Bishop Paterson of Edinburgh was also a native of this parish, and the son of poor, but industrious and honest parents.

Land-owners.—The chief land-owners are, the Earl of Seafield, to whom belongs Rannes and Findochtie; His Grace the Duke of Richmond, proprietor of Couffurrach, Leitchieston, and Burnside; Sir James Gordon, Bart. of Letterfourie and Nether Buckie; John Gordon, Esq. of Cluny, owner of the lands of Freuchnie, part of Buckie, and Gollachie; Adam Gordon, Esq. of Cairnfield; and the Misses Stuart of Tannachy.

Sir James Gordon, Bart., Adam Gordon of Cairnfield, and the Misses Stuart are resident. John Gordon, Esq. of Cluny, resides occasionally, during the season, at Buckie Lodge; and Dr Kyle, Catholic Bishop of Germanicia, at Presholm.

Parochial Registers.—The earliest records of discipline commence on the 25th December 1698, and have been very regularly kept till 1736. During that period, however, they really contain nothing, in any degree, particularly interesting, except the summoning delinquents before the session, who, upon confessing their guilt, and after severe penance in sackcloth, and many sharp rebukes before the congregation, were restored again to communion with the church. From 1787 till the present time, these records have been regularly kept.

Registration of marriages began at Whitsunday 1716, and that of baptisms in the same year. Great regularity has been observed in both from the above date till 1746; but, from this time till 1791, and even down to the present day, many Episcopalians and Roman Catholics do not register their children. No registration of deaths has ever been kept in the parish.

Antiquities.—There are many remains of antiquity in this parish, particularly of Druidical temples or cairns. The most remarkable and striking of these is one on the heights of Corriedown, called the *Cove Stanes*. A considerable portion of the stones of this cairn was employed in building the present mansion-house of Letterfourie. Mr Gordon, the father of the present proprietor, examined three of them to the foundation, and found only charcoal, and a whitish substance resembling the ashes of wood or bones. He supposed that the low grounds, in the vicinity of his house, had abounded in wood, as large pieces of oak and fir were dug out of the hollows now under cultivation. There is a large collection of stones on an eminence in one of Earl Seafield's en-

closures, near the farm of Woodside, south of the public road, commonly called the “King’s Cairn.” Tradition has handed down that it is the grave of Indulph or Indulphus, the 77th King of Scotland, who, after obtaining a complete victory over the Danes, was unfortunately killed near this spot. It is a well-known historical fact, that Indulphus’s reign was much disturbed by descents of the Danes. There is, however, some dispute regarding the precise period when this event took place. Abercrombie says that it was in 961; Buchanan in 967. We agree with Abercrombie, as Indulphus reigned from 952 to 961, and was succeeded by Duff, who fell by a conspiracy of his subjects in 965. The above event was distinguished by the name of the Battle of the Bauds, at that time an extensive moor, now the property of Lord Seafield.

A great many small cairns are still visible on this moor, between the village of Findochtie and that part of the Bauds now planted, supposed to be the burial places of the Danes who fell in the battle with Indulphus. About seventy-five years ago, a countryman found, on the lands of Rannes, in a tumulus or cairn which he was removing, a stone-coffin, containing human bones of a large size. “Having obtained permission,” says the late Rev. Mr Donaldson, “to ransack this grave, I found it covered with a large stone, 4 feet long, 3 broad, and about 14 inches in depth. On removing this, we found four other stones set on their edges, which served as a coffin to part of a skull and jaw-bone, with several teeth, and some fragments of a thigh-bone. The dimensions of this coffin were 3 feet 1 inch in length, 2 feet wide, and 1 foot 10 inches deep. There was no stone in the bottom. The bones were removed into a similar chest a few feet northward of this one, in the same tumulus. This last one was discovered, four or five years ago, by a man in the neighbourhood, who was removing a few more of the stones for building a house. It is of smaller dimensions than the other, and was originally covered with two stones, one of which was off. No bones were found in it. There are many other cairns near this one, but none of them has been searched. They are at no great distance from the House of Rannes, on a farm lately improved out of moor, called Westerside. The ruins of the House of Findochtie, of an old chapel, near the farm-house of Farskane, and of some buildings on the tops of two hills, on the east and west side of the harbour of Portnockie, the former called the Green Castle, and the latter the Tronach Castle, are still to be seen;” but by

whom they were built is unknown. On the moor of Rannachy, to the right, at the distance of 100 paces from the high road, is an eminence evidently artificial, called Tarrieclerack, supposed to be a burial-place.

Caves.—The most remarkable of those along the coast, which are found on the property of Lord Seafield, are, 1st, Farskane's, so called from the proprietor having, in 1715, retired into it, along with two other gentlemen, to avoid trouble during the Earl of Marr's rebellion. In it they lived comfortably for five or six weeks, and returned to their own houses, when all apprehension of danger was past. 2d, Janet Corstair's cave, so named from a mad woman who took up her residence in it; and, 3d, The Cross cave, so denominated from its taking a direction to the east and west, at some distance from its entrance. The extent of none of these is known. There is a well of fresh water on the north side of a green hill, surrounded by the tide, called Priest's Craig-well, betwixt Findochtie and Portnockie.

Coins.—In 1805, a small square box was turned up by the plough, on the moor of Arradoul, the property of Mr Gordon of Cairnfield, containing some coins of Queen Mary, James VI., and Charles I. Several of them are in the possession of Mr Gordon and Sir James Gordon, Bart. They were in a very good state of preservation. A silver handle of a sword also was found by Sir James Gordon's father, on the grounds of Letterfourie; but the blade was completely destroyed by rust, so that no idea could be formed of its antiquity.

Modern Buildings.—The chief of these are, Letterfourie, Cairnfield, Tannachy, Burnside, Buckie Lodge, the Roman Catholic chapel, and the Bishop's dwelling-house at Presholm. There are four corn-mills, besides one for grinding flour and making pot-barley, and another for carding wool. There is a distillery at Gollachie, but it has not been in operation for a considerable time past.

III.—POPULATION.

The number of souls in this parish, as returned to Dr Webster in 1755, was 2898. By a minute of visitation in the presbytery records, dated at the kirk of Rathven, 29th August 1720, the population is stated at 1700 catechisable persons, and 600 Papists, by a moderate computation of those above ten years of age, by Mr Robert Gordon, the minister, in presence of the heritors.

In 1793, exclusive of that part of the east end of the parish annexed to Cullen *quoad sacra*, the date of which annexation cannot be found out, the population was 3019, of whom 1408 were males, 1411 females; 1766 Presbyterians, 303 Episcopalians, 950 Roman Catholics; and 720 families. At the same date, the annexed part contained 505 persons, of whom 271 were males, 234 females; 498 Presbyterians, 2 Episcopalians, and 5 Roman Catholics.

| | | | |
|--|---|------|-----|
| Population in 1801, | - | 3901 | |
| 1811, | - | 4374 | |
| 1821, | - | 5364 | |
| 1831, | - | 6484 | |
| 1841, | - | 6826 | |
| The yearly average of births for the last seven years, | - | | 126 |
| marriages, | - | - | 46 |
| deaths, as nearly as can be calculated, | - | - | 92 |

The increase of population since 1821, viz. 1126, is altogether to be attributed to the encouragement given by Lord Seafield for the improvement of waste lands, and the flourishing state of the various fisheries, particularly of the herring-fishery; which, however, has been for several years past on the decline, within the bounds of this parish.

There are two insane persons in the parish, and four fatuous. There are two blind, and two deaf or dumb. Two only of the six are supported by the session, one at L.6, 12s. and the other at L.2, 12s. per annum.

Character of the People.—The farmers, whether Presbyterians, Episcopalians, or Roman Catholics, are men of plain and unaffected manners; open and sincere in their intercourse with others; friendly and obliging among themselves; charitable to the poor in proportion to their means, and not inhospitable to strangers. Many of them are intelligent men, and by no means deficient in intellectual, moral, and religious attainments.

The fishermen, as individuals, are nearly placed upon a footing of equality. Their pursuits are similar; hence their language and dealings are almost the same. It is said, “that the voice of one puts all in action, and that the example of one is frequently followed by all; and yet, what is singular, no one seems to possess a character decisive enough to take the lead, or to rise to superiority by the strength of genius, or the arts of address.” There cannot be the slightest doubt of the truth of this statement; as I have often marked, on hearing them talking of the success of one fisherman over another, that they never would attribute this suc-

cess either to the superiority of their neighbours' skill in fishing, or of his nets, lines or hooks, but, like all in similar circumstances who are of a superstitious turn of mind, and believe in fate, to what they called "good chance."

The boys go to sea as soon as they can be of any service to their fathers; on that account their education is much neglected, or, at least, much interrupted, so that little progress is made. At eighteen years of age they become men, and, whenever they acquire the share of a boat, they marry, as it is a maxim with them "that no man can be a fisher, and want a wife." They marry, therefore, at an early age, and the object of their choice is always a fisherman's daughter, who is generally from eighteen to twenty-two years of age. These women lead a most laborious life, and frequently go from ten to twenty-five miles into the country, with a heavy load of fish. They seldom receive money for this fish, but take in exchange meal, barley, butter, and cheese. They assist in all the labour connected with the boats on shore, and show great dexterity in baiting the hooks and arranging the lines. When stormy weather prevents the boats from fishing, the men are employed in mending their lines and nets, or in making new ones. They are stout, well-formed, of good stature, capable of undergoing great fatigue, and are the most expert and intrepid seamen in her Majesty's dominions. The women are, in many instances, handsome, good looking, and the very picture of health. Many of the fishermen are sober, industrious, and well-behaved men, and have laid up considerable savings. Others are thoughtless, and too frequently spend foolishly what they have earned with so much danger and hardship.

Every thing in their power has been done by the session to promote temperance at marriages, baptisms, and funerals. Previous to a marriage taking place, the session exacts a pledge of half a guinea from the parties that there will be no rioting or fighting. If there is, the pledge is forfeited to the poor; if it turns out otherwise, it is returned on the following Sabbath, provided the elder of the district certify the same. The fishermen generally are a sober, hard-working race of men, and those who act with common prudence enjoy all the comforts of life in a reasonable degree. In proof of this, the industrious and saving have good houses, mostly slated, and well furnished, consisting of two or three apartments. The women, some years ago, went to church bare-headed, but now they put on white muslin caps, or straw bonnets, with red cloaks or

Horses.—The horses, particularly those for agricultural purposes, have been much improved in size and shape, and this in a great measure has been owing to the spirited exertions of the Agricultural Society, instituted some years ago at Cullen. A handsome premium is given from the Society's funds to the owner of the best stallion that appears at the annual competition, and the successful competitor is bound to keep his horse for the season within the limits of a certain portion of the district. There are now many valuable horses for agricultural purposes in this parish, which in price may vary from L. 20 to L. 35, and some even bring so high a sum as L. 40.

The fields are properly laid out, cleaned, drained, and in many instances enclosed with dry-stone dikes. The furrows are straightened, run-ridge is abolished, and a regular rotation of cropping is strictly observed. The six years' shift is most general. The rents are from L. 30 to L. 500, according to extent and quality. The farm-steadings and office-houses, with few exceptions, stand very much in need of improvement.

Manures.—Various kinds of manure are used. Farmers residing near the coast, after a storm has loosed the sea-weed from the rocks, and driven it to the shore, procure large quantities, which they spread in summer on ley to the extent of three hundred cart loads to the acre. This process is renewed every second year. Dung, purchased from the fishing villages, and composed of the offals of the large fish, when mixed with moss or earth, is accounted a valuable manure for raising green crops.

Produce.—

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| Grain of all kinds, | L.27,300 |
| Potatoes and turnips, | 8,040 |
| Hay and pasture, | 7,696 |
| Annual thinnings of wood, | 600 |
| Fisheries from the sea, | 45,000 |
| Slate and lime quarries, | 300 |
| | <hr/> L.88,936 |

Manufactures.—About seventy-nine years ago, linen was manufactured to a very considerable extent in this parish, which at that time gave employment to sixty hand weavers, besides the great number of females who were employed in the spinning of the flax. It was mostly Dutch, and sent dressed or hackled from Aberdeen, Fraserburgh, Banff, Portsoy, Cullen, Huntly, and Fochabers, to different agents, to the amount of 348 cwt., which, given out to

the spinners at the average price of 1s. per lb., brought in annually L.1948, 16s. At present there are only four weavers, who are chiefly employed by different families in weaving a little napery, linen, and plaiden for family use. A small manufactory for spinning ropes is still carried on at Buckie.

The following are the imports and exports at Port Gordon for the following years.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1833. Salt imported, 1981 tons. | English coal imported, 1348 tons. |
| Grain exported, 3520 quarters. | |
| 1834. Salt imported, 2474 tons. | English coal ditto. 1458 tons. |
| Grain exported, 6353 quarters. | |
| 1835. Salt imported, 2108 tons. | English coal ditto. 1233 tons. |
| 1836 to the 30th September 1837. | Salt imported, 2856 tons. |
| English coal imported, 2068 tons. | Grain exported, 12538 quarters. |
| 1837. Salt imported, 1872 tons. | English coal ditto. 1452 tons |
| Grain exported, 7564 quarters. | |
| 1838. Salt imported, 1656 tons. | English coal ditto. 1245 tons. |
| Grain exported, 10,344 quarters. | |
| 1839. Salt imported, 1427 tons. | English coal ditto. 1357 tons. |
| Grain exported, 11,243 quarters. | |
| 1840. Salt imported, 2130 tons. | English coal ditto. 2056 tons. |
| Grain exported, 8327 quarters. | |
| 1841. Salt imported, 1380 tons. | English coal ditto. 3517 tons. |
| Grain exported, 6223 quarters. | |
| Register tons, 3231. | |

There were imported at Buckie last year, several cargoes of coals and one of salt ; at Porteasy, one also of coals ; and one at Findochtie.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Some years ago, two fairs were annually held in this parish ; but now there is only one, which takes place in the end of July for cattle, sheep, cheese, &c. At Buckie Burn, there is a post-office, with a daily delivery. There is no regular market for butcher-meat ; but at Buckie, and the other villages, wheaten bread and groceries can be procured.

Villages in the parish.—There are six villages, viz. five fishing ; Buckie, Porteasy, Findochtie, Portnockie, Port Gordon, and Rathven, which requires no description.

Buckie is situated at the mouth of the Burn of Buckie, and belongs to Sir James Gordon, Bart., on the west side of this burn ; and on the east of it, to John Gordon, Esq. of Cluny. According to the last census, it contains a population of 2005. The west side has been a fishing station for nearly 200 years, and is the oldest in the parish. At what time the other side became a fishing station, cannot be ascertained with any degree of certainty.

During the year 1723, a fishing-boat and crew, belonging to the Duke of Gordon, removed from Gollachie, which is situated about a mile westward of Buckie, as being a safer and more commodious situation. About that period, the proprietor of Nether Buckie, who held his lands in feu from the Duke, had only one boat; and as he was out of the kingdom, and considerably in arrears of his feus to the Duke, the desired accommodation was the more readily obtained. At present, there are 117 large boats, and 28 small, employed in the various fisheries.

Porteasay.—This village is situated nearly two miles east from Buckie. In the year 1727, it was known as a fishing-station, and contained five houses, which were built by Hay of Rannes, at that time the proprietor, for the accommodation of the original fishermen, who came from Findhorn, in Morayshire, to settle there. The writer of the last Statistical Report says, “that he obtained this information from a man aged ninety, who was a native of this parish, and helped to man the first boat.” This village contains a population of 420. They have 27 large boats, and 12 small ones.

Findochtie.—Findochtie lies two miles from Porteasay, and contains a population of 414. A colony of fishermen settled here from Fraserburgh in 1716. They possess amongst them 24 large boats, and 15 small.

Portnockie—Portnockie, the property of the Earl of Seafield, contains a population of 800, and attached, *quoad sacra*, to Cullen, is two miles to the eastward of Findochtie. “The following anecdote,” says the late Rev. Mr Donaldson, “ascertains its origin as a fishing-station. About twenty years ago, died Kattie Slater, aged ninety-six. Like many old people, she was unable to tell her age precisely; but she recollected that she was as old as the House of Farskane, as her father had often told her that he built the first house in Portnockie, the same year in which the house of Farskane was built; and that she was brought from Cullen to it, and rocked in a fisher’s scull, instead of a cradle.” Now, from the date on the house of Farskane, it appears to have been built in 1677. Thus the origin of this village is fixed with sufficient accuracy. It contains 800 inhabitants, and has 70 large boats, and 27 small.

Portgordon.—This village, of which the Duke of Richmond is now proprietor, was named from the late Noble Dukes of Gordon. It contains a population of 470, and is attached, *quoad sacra*,

to the Chapel of Ease at Enzie. There is a tolerably good harbour, and, as has been stated, considerable business is done in exporting grain, and in importing salt and coals. There are 7 large boats, and 10 small.*

Herring Fishery.—About Christmas, the fishermen engage with the curers in the herring fishing, at the various curing stations on the coast of Caithness, at Fraserburgh, Peterhead, and Aberdeen. They receive from the fish-curer a bounty on each boat from L.8 to L. 10, and 10s. 6d. for every cran which will contain from 600 to 700 dozen, with four pints of whisky weekly. Each boat requires four men, and sometimes a boy. In a successful season a boat may take in one night upwards of 40 crans; from 150 to 180 is reckoned an excellent fishing for the season. The number of boats in this parish is 245; and, taking the average of each boat at 100 crans at 10s. 6d., the amount will be L. 18,375.

Means of Communication.—The roads, upon the whole, in all directions, are good, and kept in an excellent state of repair. The post-road runs through the parish from east to west for ten miles. A coach from Elgin to Banff passes and repasses daily along this road, affording an easy and expeditious conveyance to various parts of the county. The condition of the bridges and fences is good.

Harbours.—There are two harbours, one at Buckie and the other at Portgordon. Ships of considerable burden enter the harbour at Portgordon, where, as has been stated, considerable business

* The large boats are from 12 to 14 tons in weight, and the small ones between 4 and 5. The price of a large boat is L.27; masts and sails, including cordage, L.16; each net is from 45 to 50 yards in length, and costs L.3, 10s. In fishing cod, ling, and haddocks, a large boat requires eight men; and each boat has, from February to April, nine lines, containing 800 hooks at a yard's distance. From this period, when the season for taking large fish begins, till April, the fishermen seldom go farther from the shore than fifty miles. From the end of April, or beginning of May, they frequently sail out to the distance of eighty miles in search of skate, and then each boat has eighteen lines. Skate is found in great abundance in a particular spot of Caithness, called the Skate Hole. Cod, ling, halibut, tusk, and skate, are the only large fish caught in any quantity in the Moray Frith. They are salted in pots on the beach, and dried on the rocks, or on a temporary frame made for the purpose. Skate, however, is dried without salt, and the halibut is used fresh. The ling and skate are most valuable, on account of their livers yielding a considerable portion of oil, which is sold from 10d. to 1s. per pint. Cod, ling, and tusk, are in season from May to February; skate is good at all seasons; and halibut in high perfection about July. In June, the dried fish is packed in the large boats, and carried for sale to the different towns along the Fife coast, to Edinburgh, Glasgow, and occasionally to Ireland. A cargo is valued at L.100.

The crew of a small boat consists of five men, with a boy. The small boats are used for taking haddocks, whittings, flounders, &c. Mackerel is caught from July till the end of August, by a line sunk with lead, and the hooks baited with any substance of a bright or red colour. They are also frequently taken in the salmon stake nets in large quantities.

is done in importing and exporting salt, coals, and grain. The one at Buckie is used chiefly as a landing place for the fishermen, and a protection for their boats. In summer, coals and salt may be landed with safety.

Ecclesiastical State.—The situation of the parish church is both central and convenient for the greater part of the population, its distance from the extremities being four miles and a-half, and from the nearest boundary about two. It was built in the year 1794, and since that time, has only undergone some slight repairs upon the roof. Its present state, therefore, is good, and 1000 persons, allowing eighteen inches to each, can be comfortably accommodated. The sittings are all free, and the right of occupancy arises from the families living upon the properties of the different heritors, to whom seats were allocated in proportion to their valued rental.

The manse was built in 1778, and underwent considerable repairs in 1827, and at present, including the office-houses, is in good habitable order. The extent of glebe is seven acres of arable ground, which may be valued at L.17, 10s. The amount of stipend is 120 bolls of barley, and the same number of meal, converted into money at the highest fiars of the county, with L. 10 for communion elements. Sir Andrew Leith Hay of Rannes is patron.*

* Alexander Macdonald, Esq. Register-Office, supplied me with the following intelligence relative to this parish.

“The Provostrie of the College Kirk of Cullane fundat onlie upon the fruittis of the vicarage of Rathven, pertaining to Sir George Duff, Provost, liand in the dioecie of Abirdene within the shirefdom of Banff. Being at all times collectit bi the said Sir George himself, sen his entres thairto. The yeirlie avall estimate to l. merkis.

“Quhairof he payis to Sir Andro Hay, vicar pensioner of Rathven xx merkis yeirlie,—Sic subscribitur, Sir George Duff, Provost of Cullane, Provostrie of Culane quhilk is the vicarage of Rathven. In the haille, xxxij ti vj. s. viij. d. ; 3 thair of, xj ti ij s. ij d. ot., &c.

“The rental of the personage of Rathven with the annex therof, liand within the diocesis of Abirdene and Murray, respective sherefdoms of Banff and Murray respective. In the first the teind silver of the parochin of Rathven vijxx vjti. The malles of the baronie of Rathven, xxxi merkis vij s. iiij. d. The fermes of the Loynhead aikkeris and mylne mltures extendis to vxx bollis beir. Item, the kirk of Dundureus set for xl tib. Item, the Kirk of Kinallartie, xxiij ti. Item, the landis of Murven, liand in the parochine of Dundureus, xvj merkis. Heirof deduct of ordinar chargis to sex bedmen xlij merkis. Item, to their habittis, vij ti. iiij s. Item, to the staller Abirdene. Item, geiven furth of Dundureus to the Abbay of Kinlos v. ti, sic subscribitur, G. Hay with my hand.

Personage of Rathven, the beidmen's pensionis and daith deducit, In the hail, ije vj, ti x s ; 3 thair of, iijxx viij ti., xvj s. viii d. ; beir, vj chalders, iij bollis ; 3 thair of, ij ch., j b. j pe. 3 pt.”

In “the registre of ministers and thair stipends sen the year of God 1567,” published by Alexander Macdonald, Esq. one of the members of the Maitland Club, we find that Maister George Hay, minister of Rathven, in the dioecie of Abirdene, for the year 1576, had for his stipend, ij. c. ti.

The present incumbent raised a process of augmentation of stipend before the Teind Court, which, however, was refused in November 1838, on the ground that his ministerial labours were diminished on account of the erection of a chapel at Buckie, on the Church Extension principle.

There are three Chapels of Ease attached to the Established church in this parish; one situated at the Enzie, which was built in the year 1785, and seated for 404. This chapel was erected from money raised by a general collection made through all the churches of Scotland, as recommended by the General Assembly. It is endowed, and the fund arises from lands left by a Mr Anderson, which were purchased by Alexander, late Duke of Gordon, and the price received was more advantageously vested in other property. It is under the management of the Committee of the Royal Bounty, along with the constituent members of the presbytery of Fordyce, within whose bounds it is situated. The clergyman receives annually from the Procurator of the Church the sum of L. 62, 8s. His other emoluments arise from seat rents, which are let so low as from 1s. to 3d. annually, and a glebe of eight acres, for which two bolls of barley are paid to his Grace the Duke of Richmond. The ground is rather of an inferior quality, and its value may be about L. 1 per acre. There is no manse, but the clergymen resides in a very comfortable house attached to a farm which has always been let to the incumbent. The whole emoluments, exclusive of what may arise from the profits of the farm, may amount to L. 70 per annum. There are no free sittings, but as the seats are let at so very moderate a rate, this really can scarcely be felt as any inconvenience. The funds arising from the weekly collections are under the management of the kirk-session. The yearly amount varies from L. 18 to L. 21. Out of this sum, as they have no benefactions, they maintain their own poor, whose number at present on the roll is 33, and pay the church officer and precentor. The population is 1703, and divine service is well attended. Communicants 340.

The other chapel connected with the Establishment is situated

“ Thomas Hay, reidar at Rathven, his stipend xx ti, &c.”

In the same register for the Schyre of Tueddail, parochin Ettilstoun, the following is recorded, which we think worthy of a place in this report, “ Mr George Hay, minister and persoun, the thryd of this personage and Rathven, alsweill by runis as to cum extending to lxviij to xvj s viiij d j chalder j boll beir of Rathven,—iiij chalders, ix bollis of meill for Ettilstoun. Providing always he insist diligentie in the ministrie, and als cause his kirk quhar he makis not continuall residence to be sufficiently servit, and that he charge the kirk with na farther stipend.”

in the village of Easter Buckie. It was built in the year 1835, chiefly by subscription, and cost the sum of L.800. It is free of debt. The clergyman was ordained to this charge in the month of July 1837, and has a bond for L.80 per annum as stipend. This chapel contains 800 hearers. There are no free sittings, provided they possibly can be let. The highest charge is 3s. 6d. and the lowest 1s. No part of the weekly collections has hitherto gone to the support of the poor. The heritors and kirk-session are now, however, entitled to the half of these collections, according to the decision given by the Court of Session in the cause of the heritors against the managers of the Chapel of Ease in Brechin. The population assigned is upwards of 2000, which comprehends the whole of the village of Buckie, and a small portion of the landward part lying towards the south. Number of communicants, 400 ; unlet seats, 300.

The third chapel in connection with the Established Church is situated at the village of Portnockie. It was finished and opened for public worship some time ago. It contains 450 sitters. The whole seats are already let, and the members of Presbytery have agreed to preach in rotation weekly till such time as a clergyman be ordained. It is called Seafield Church, and, when formed into a parish, will comprehend the part of this parish attached *quoad sacra* to Cullen, and a few families residing in the immediate neighbourhood of Portnockie. It was built by subscription, and cost L.400, of which the Honourable Colonel Grant, now sixth Earl of Seafield, contributed L.100.

There are two Episcopal chapels,—one at Arradoul, and another in Buckie. The one at Arradoul was built about fifty-four years ago, and contains 211 sittings, of which 139 are let at 3s. 6d. each. The other, in Buckie, was purchased about a year ago from the Methodists, and contains 200 sittings.

There are two Roman Catholic chapels in this parish, one of which is situated at Presholm, and the other at Buckie. The one at Presholm was built in 1788, and contains 800 sitters ; the other, which was lately fitted up, holds 400. The attendance at each chapel averages 400. The amount of Catholic population is 1500. The bishop resides at Presholm, and has three priests who officiate and live with him there, whose incomes depend solely upon what the bishop may give them. The collections at both chapels are given to the poor of their own persuasion.

Divine service at the Established Church is well attended. The number of all ages belonging to the parish church is 1820. Average number of communicants, 700. The amount of extraordinary collections, during the last five years, for charitable purposes, was L.20, 10s. 10½d. One of these collections is annually made in behalf of the Aberdeen Infirmary.

Education.—The number of schools in the parish is fourteen. Six of these are endowed, and the other eight are supported by fees.

The master of the parochial school has a salary of L.32, 1s. 6d., with the legal accommodation, and an annual sum from the Dick Bequest of L.25. The branches of instruction are, reading, writing, arithmetic, English grammar, geography, Latin, and the elements of Greek when required. The fees charged for reading English are 2s. per quarter; for arithmetic and writing, 2s. 6d.; English grammar and geography, 3s. 6d.; for Greek or Latin, 5s. Average number of scholars during the year, 80. He is not session-clerk, consequently he has no emoluments from that office. Amount of school fees, L. 23, making in whole about L. 80 annually. The school is ably taught.

The Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge has endowed two schools in this parish, one at Buckie, a most important station, and the other at the village of Couffurach, in the immediate neighbourhood of the Enzie chapel.* The number of scholars, according to the last report, was 46. At Couffurach, the master has a free dwelling-house and school-room from His Grace the Duke of Richmond, and L.15 of salary from the society above-mentioned. He teaches only the common branches of education. Number of scholars, 31. An efficient and active teacher is much wanted at this station. There is another school at Port-Gordon in this district. The Duke of Richmond pays the teacher a salary of L.15, and allows him a free house and school-room. This is also an important station, and the school is most successfully conducted. The number attending is 90.

* The school in Buckie has been withdrawn by the Society, on the ground, that the school house has been allowed to fall into decay. This is deeply to be regretted, because Buckie, from its great population, is one of the most important stations in the north of Scotland. It is therefore to be hoped, that a commodious house will be speedily provided by the proprietor, and that a zealous and efficient teacher will be forthwith appointed.

Besides the school endowed by this Society, there is another in Buckie, kept by a woman, who teaches reading, along with sewing and knitting, to little girls. She receives a salary of L.4 ; number of scholars, 30. There is another school, for the same purpose, taught by a female at Findochtie. She receives L.1, 1s. annually from Earl Seafield, and has a free house. Their charges are a mere trifle per month. In the populous village of Portnockie, the Noble proprietor, the Earl of Seafield, has built an excellent school-house, and gives L.10 annually to the teacher, who is allowed to charge the same fees as at the parish school. It is numerously attended, and well taught by the present master. There are also five Sabbath schools in the parish, attended by about 300 scholars.

In an extensive parish of this kind, it cannot be very easily ascertained what number of the young, betwixt six and fifteen years of age, cannot read or write. There are few, if any, who are not able to read ; but a considerable number cannot write.

The people, in general, are alive to the benefits of education ; but many of the poorer classes, particularly the more indigent of the fishermen, are compelled to take their children from school as soon as they are able to do any thing for their own support.

There are no parts of the parish so distant from some one of the schools, as to prevent attendance.

There can scarcely be a doubt, that, in general, a visible change in the conduct and morals of the people has taken place, since the facilities of education were increased, though there is still great room for farther improvement.

Library.—A public library was instituted some years ago in the village, or kirk-town of Rathven. It contains a considerable number of valuable works, and is supported by a quarterly contribution.

Charitable Institutions.—*Bede-House.*—The origin of this institution is mentioned by Spottiswood in his Account of Religious Houses in Scotland, and is as follows : “ Rothsan, John Bisset gives to God, and the Church of St Peter’s of Rothsan, for sustaining seven leprous persons, the patronage of the Kirk of Kyltargy, to pray for the souls of William and Alexander, Kings of Scotland, and souls of his ancestors and successors, about 1226.”*

* “ Donatio Johannis Byseth de jure patronatus ecclesie de Kyltargy.

“ Omnibus has literas visuris vel audituris Johannes Byseth, eternam in Domino

The Bede House is still standing in the village of Rathven, and was very lately repaired; and two of the six Bede men, who are still maintained on the establishment, at present live in this house. When a vacancy occurs, the kirk-session merely recommend, as the appointment is invested in the Earl of Seafield, who is proprietor of the lands of Rannes, and their yearly income is as follows: From the lands of Rannes, each bedeman has half an acre of good croft land during his life, and one boll of oatmeal annually; from the lands of Findochtie, 8s. 1½d.; and, from John Gordon, Esq. of Cluny, as proprietor of the lands of Freuchnie, which formerly formed part of the estate of Rannes, 1s. 4¾d. making in whole, 9s. 6d. The half acre, when let, which they are allowed to do, brings L.1, 1s. per annum.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The number at present on the poor's roll is 69, besides many others who occasionally receive relief. There are also two fatuous persons supported from the session funds, one at 3s. 6d. per week, and the other at 1s. Hitherto no assessment has been made; but in a very short time, it must become unavoidable.

The present funds for the support of the poor are the ordinary weekly collections at the church doors, which, for the last eight years, have averaged L.44, 4s. 11¾d.; from interest of money vested with the Honourable Colonel Grant, L.2, 10s.; from fines last year, now not exacted, L.22, 11s.; from mortcloth, L.2, 6s.;

salutem, universitate vestre significo me caritatis intuitu et pro anima Domini, Wilhelmi Regis Scotie, et pro salute Domini mei Alexandri nobilis regis, nec non et pro salute animarum antecessorum et successorum meorum dedisse, concessisse et hac presenti carta mea confirmasse Deo et ecclesie Sancti Petri de Rothfan ad sustentationem leprosorum ibidem Deo servientium jus patronatus et quicquid habui in donatione ecclesie de Kytalargy quantum ad meam pertinet donationem, habendam et possidendam sibi, et successoribus suis de me et heredibus meis adeo libere quiete plenarie et honorifice in liberam puram et perpetuam elemosinam; sicut aliqua ecclesia ab aliquo milite vel barone in regno Scotie liberius, quietius, plenius, et honorificentius tenetur et possidetur. Preterea dedi domui tantum de rebus meis et averiis unde placati sunt et fideliter, mihi et heredibus meis promiserunt et per puppium et solempne instrumentum se obligaverunt, quod unum capellanium ibidem Deo sacra ministrantem et septem leprosos et unum famulum illis servientem pro redemptione peccatorum suorum in perpetuum sustenebant, ac illis singulis in necessariis competenter ministrabant. Cum autem aliquem illorum inferiorum meri contigerit, vel de domo predicta recesserit; donec predictus numerus compleatur per me vel heredes meos alius prescrutabitur et instituetur. Quod ut ratum et firmum in perpetuum habeatur presens scriptum, cum sigillo meo dignum duxi roborandum. His testibus, domino Andrea episcopo, F. decano, H. archodiacano Moraviensi, H. decano Rossensi vicario Moravienso, Thoma hostiano [vicario] de Inuernys, W. Prath [vicario] de Inuernarrin, R. [vicario] de Forays, W. fratre meo, H. Corbeth, Symone vicario de Dulbathlach, H. cappellano meo, qui hanc cartam scripsit Wadeno scutifero meo et multis aliis, Tabula, p. vii. fol. 29, Char-tulary of Moray. Actum anno gratie, 5°cc°xxvi. mense Junie, die mensis ejusdem decimo nono apud Inuernys."

from dues of proclamation, L.2, 12s. 6d. Total, L.74, 4s. 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. Last year, however, the sum of L.96, 14s. 5d. was disbursed, which included expenses of every kind; but, in order to make up this amount, the session were under the necessity of taking up the remainder of the money lodged with Earl Seafield.* The poor, according to their necessities, receive from 5s. to 7s. per quarter. In addition to this, Lord Seafield gives annually a certain quantity of meal to those on the poor's roll who reside upon the lands of Findochtie and Porteasay.

This part of the country was wont to be greatly infested with vagrants; but the establishment of the rural police in this and the neighbouring counties has completely suppressed promiscuous begging, and conferred a great boon on the district.

In a poor and populous parish such as this, we have much pleasure in stating, that the poor, in most cases, manifest no particular disposition to seek parochial relief, unless forced by necessity alone, or unexpected bereavement; many melancholy and heart-rending cases of which too frequently occur among the fishermen.

Inns or Alehouses.—In the village of Buckie there are ten licensed houses for retailing ardent spirits; in Porteasay, two; in Findochtie, four; in Portnockie, four; in Portgordon, six; two by the turnpike road; two in the village of Rathven; making in whole 30,—a number by far too great, and which must tend, and that in no ordinary degree, both to impoverish and demoralize the people, particularly the fishermen.

Fuel.—The principal fuel used is peat, or dried turf. It is procured at a great distance from the different villages, consequently it is very expensive. A small cart-load costs from 1s. to 1s. 6d. According to the last report of this parish, it is stated, “that, when the load is sold at 1s., the consumer pays at the rate of a halfpenny for four peats and one turf.” Coals are sold at Buckie, and Portgordon, about 1s. 6d. per imperial barrel, ten of which make a good cart-load, weighing nearly 18 cwt.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The valued rental of this parish in 1792, was from L. 4000 to L. 5000 Sterling; in 1813, it was assessed at L.7336. Since the

* Since the above was written the whole funds have been exhausted, so that the kirk-session found themselves under the necessity of calling a meeting of heritors, to take immediate steps to provide for the wants of the poor. They met accordingly, and assessed themselves for the ensuing year to the amount of L.95 Sterling.

last Statistical report was published, immense improvements have taken place. Many hundred acres of moor-ground have been reclaimed. The Earl of Seafield gives a bounty of L.5 for each acre thus improved. On the extensive moor grounds lying on the north and south sides of the turnpike road leading from Cullen to a little westward of Rannachie, from the encouragement thus given, the appearance of the face of the land has been most completely changed : and, in addition to this, many comfortable and commodious houses have been built, which, with their neat enclosures, add very much to the beauty of the surrounding country. By the premium thus offered, many industrious and enterprising poor people obtain a decent and respectable subsistence. The improvers, besides receiving the L.5 for each acre reclaimed, possess it rent free for five years ; after that period they pay a rent according to the quality of the ground improved. Prejudices in favour of old practices are speedily dying away ; and every intelligent and cautious man is anxiously looking around him to discover what is most conducive to his own interest. Great improvements have been made in agriculture, particularly in draining and turnip-husbandry. Thrashing-mills have been erected wherever the farms are of any considerable extent, several of which are driven by water. Much corn is still thrashed with flails. The people are, in every respect, improved, both as to intelligence, food, clothing, and lodging. The roads and bridges are kept in good order, affording an easy and ready access to markets, and every part of the surrounding country.

March 1842.

PARISH OF GAMRIE.*

PRESBYTERY OF TURRIFF, SYNOD OF ABERDEEN.

THE REV. THOMAS WILSON, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—THE parish of Gamrie, or, as it has been named at different times, *Gamery*, *Ghaemrie*, or *Gemrie*, according to generally received tradition, derives its name from a Gaelic word, *Kemrie*,—signifying a *running leap* or *running fight*,—on account of a bloody engagement with the Danes on the spot where the old church now stands.

Extent and Boundaries.—The parish is about 10 miles long from east to west, and from 3 to 4 broad. It is bounded on the north by the Moray Frith; on the east, by the brook or burn of Nethermill, which separates it from Aberdour; on the south, by King-Edward; and on the west, by King-Edward, Alvah, and the river Doveran, which separates it from Banff.

Topographical Appearances.—The surface of the parish is exceedingly diversified by hills, glens, and precipices. This appears to be occasioned by the singular nature of the sea-coast, which is skirted by a narrow ledge of stupendous rocks, running the whole length of the parish, and of the eastern adjoining one of Aberdour, in some places perpendicular towards the sea to the height of 600 feet, and in all precipitous. The bay of Gamrie is formed by the jutting out into the sea of two headlands, Gamrie-head and Troup-head, leaving between them a large open bay, with fine anchorage ground for vessels of any size. The view of the coast from sea, outside the bay, is much admired. At the bottom of the bay, the rocks, which are steep and rugged on either side, retire a little, leaving room for the village of Gardenstown, and no more; and then they rise with just as much bend from the perpendicular as allows mould to lie upon them, which is closely covered with green grass, except here and there a winding footpath like a staircase, on

* Drawn up by Mr Alexander Whyte, Parochial Schoolmaster of Gamrie.

which few can venture without fear and trembling, except the natives. From the tops of these braes, as they are called, one could almost fancy he might peep down the chimneys of the houses; and so abrupt is the rising of the ground in some places, that one house of three stories has them all ground floors, one entrance being at the front, another at the back, and the third at an end. On the east side of the bay, the little fishing village of Crovie lies about a mile from Gardenstown, with the one gable-end of the houses to the sea, and the other to the land, and this last is bored, as it were, into the bank, like a brood of young sea-fowl, nestling with their heads under the dams; and nearly at the same distance on the west side, stands the old church and church-yard, on a ledge of the hill's brow; which one would think in equal danger of being smothered by the hill hanging over it, and of being undermined by the sea below.

From the bay of Gamrie alone of all the coast, except at the western extremity, before the high rocks commence, the land rises gradually, that is, from the top of the braes, with more or less acclivity, for upwards of a mile into the interior. The most singular appearance of all the other coast is, that it is not the termination of higher lands from the interior, but that it slopes down from the sea towards the south, sometimes immediately, but generally after a few furlongs of plain on the top, and forms glens parallel with the shore, which are scarcely less admired than the shore itself, for their rich verdure and picturesque scenery. The rocks themselves, or narrow hills between these glens and the sea, are generally covered at their tops with heath; and to a person standing on their highest eminences, and surveying the wide extending plains, woods, and mountain-tops southward and westward, and the threatening ocean north, the reflection can hardly fail of offering itself, that these strong barriers of the mighty deep have been placed before its proud waves by the hand of Omnipotence, as a memento of his resistless fiat, "Hitherto shalt thou come, and no further."

Another circumstance that diversifies much the appearance of the parish is, that the rocks on the coast are not carried wholly in a continuous chain from end to end, but are broken in upon with chasms or cross dens to their very bottoms, appearing as if the rocks had been rent asunder by some great convulsion. In the zigzag projections of the opposite sides of these cross dens, each protuberance of the one corresponds with a like opening of the

other. From this last appearance some think that these gulleys have been formed gradually during the lapse of ages, by the action of water washing away the soft earth, and leaving the hard rock standing, first abrupt, and afterwards sloped by the mouldering away of the sharp edges; but the general belief is, that the glens were formed at once by the flood, when the windows of heaven were opened, and the fountains of the great deep were broken up. There are four of these dens, or great openings in the rocks, which serve as outlets for the water of the interior, and which, branching off, or widening as they retire from the sea, become straths or valleys. The first to the westward is called Oldhaven, between the lands of Cullen and Melrose; the second, and principal one, east of the old church, called the Den of Afforsk; the third, at the fishing village of Crovie; and the fourth at Cullycan, near Trouphouse. Nothing can be more lovely and romantic than the scenery of these passes or ravines, in their approach to the sea. A short description of the one below the old church may be interesting, as it is the deepest of the whole, and the richest in natural scenery. The best view of the den is from a ledge or table of rock about half way down the point of the Rin of Afforsk, a steep acclivity in the form of a wedge which separates the ravine into two, and where the two burns meet at the bottom. There is thence a view of the higher part above the church, covered with heath, furze, and occasional bushes of rasp and whortleberries (blackberries) in the more sheltered spots; and below, of the beautiful deep-winding valley or ravine, with the clear brook at the bottom, gurgling through its numerous sinuosities, overhung sometimes with the naked rock standing in single gray buttresses, like fragments of an old castle,—and then sparkling up to the steep banks which rise high on either side, exhibiting all the shades of green according to their position, with here and there a brake of thorns, well-peopled with thrushes, blackbirds, linnets, and other songsters, which enliven the solitude with their music. The point of the Rin below, and all the western valley above it, as well as that on the east side, is loaded with a profusion of herbage, and affords the best field for botany in the parish. Even one who is no botanist cannot help admiring the richness and variety of herbage and gaudy wild flowers in this locality. The rocky places are throughout ornamented at the bottom with wild geraniums, cranesbills, foxglove, primroses, hawthorn, wild-roses of different colours, and other indigenous flowers of the season; while the modest wild

strawberry may be seen blushing in the crevices, and the green ivy insinuating itself into every chink, and climbing up the shelving sides.

Caves.—As might be supposed, amongst such gigantic masses of rock, here are several caves along this coast; and among others of inferior note, two in the neighbourhood of Troup deserve particular notice. The first is about 50 fathoms deep, 60 long, and 40 broad, from which there is a subterraneous passage to the sea, about 80 yards long, through which the waves are driven with great violence in a northern storm, and occasion a smoke to ascend from the den. Hence it has got the name of Hell's lum. The other is a subterranean passage through a peninsula of about 150 yards long from sea to sea, through which a man can with difficulty creep. At the north end of this narrow passage, is a cave about 20 feet high, 30 broad, and 150 long, containing not less than 90,000 cubic feet. The whole is supported by immense columns of rocks, exceedingly grand, and has a wonderfully fine effect, after a person has crept through the narrow passage. This place is called the Needle's Eye.

Meteorology.—The climate may be considered comparatively dry and healthy. The temperature varies greatly in different parts of the parish, the high lands being cold and the valleys warm. It in general may be considered colder than the interior, owing partly to the elevation of the land, and partly to the prevalence of north winds and storms from the German Ocean. Less snow lies, however, than in the interior, owing to the exposure to sea breezes. The warmest and earliest part of the parish is the eastern or Troup district, which has the double advantage of a south exposure, and of shelter from the north blast by the high rocks of Troup head.

Hydrography.—On the sea coast in the neighbourhood of Macduff, is a pretty good mineral spring, called the Well of Tarlain, which has been resorted to for many years by invalids, both for the benefit of the waters and for sea-bathing; and the Earl of Fife, whose philanthropy and attention to the comforts of all within his reach, are proverbial, has been at considerable expense in making roads to it, and keeping the place neat and commodious for visitors. There are minerals also of the same kind at Melrose, near the shore of Old Haven.

In the hill of Troup, on nearly the highest ground in the parish, there is a very small lake called the Standard loch, formed

by hillocks surrounding a hollow, in which there seems to be a spring, as the loch never dries. It is the nightly resort of wild-geese, early in the spring, which, however, leave it before the hatching season.

There are several brooks or burns in the parish, and in general it is well supplied with water. The burn of the Tore, or Nether mill, (the name of the place at its entrance into the sea,) running northward, at the bottom of a deep wooded glen, separates the parish from that of Aberdour, about three or four miles, and is also the boundary between the counties of Banff and Aberdeen. The same boundary is then continued by the burn of Logie, which has its source near the former, and runs in a contrary direction, separating Gamrie from the parish of King Edward for several miles, till it is joined by the burn of Minnonie on Pitgair. There is something worth observing in the natural history of this last burn. The deep ravine, already described, below the old church, rises with a steep acclivity of ground for nearly a mile, preserving about the same width and depth, to the highest ground on the farm of Afforsk. The den then continues a dead level for perhaps one hundred yards or more, in a peat bog at the bottom, while the sides are covered with furze, heath, and grass. The water there separates, going the one part north, to the sea at Gamrie bay, and the other commencing a circuitous journey southward. After receiving contributions from a number of cross rills for about two miles, till it becomes strong enough to turn a mill at Minnonie, it soon after joins the burn of Logie, and, going southward and then westward, past the church of King Edward, it joins the Doveran, runs in it northward, through the parishes of King Edward, Alvah, and Banff, till it meets again its old mother Gamrie, who, politely tendering her left arm, conducts it to the sea. The whole revolution from the den of Afforsk cannot be less than sixteen or eighteen miles, while its twin brother has a short merry race among stones, rocks, shrubs, and flowers, of less than one mile.

There is a similar division of the water of Troup in the east, which, rising on the farm of Northfield, runs parallel with the coast, the one part eastward into the harbour of Cullycan, and the other westward into the shore of Crovie. A like division also takes place westward of the old church, when one part runs east, into the den of Afforsk, and the other west, parallel with the rocks to the bay of Old Haven. Near its termination, viz. at the mill of Melrose, there is a steep and beautiful waterfall, that turns two

water-wheels, the one above the other, on the different floors of the same house. The one for a meal-mill, and also a saw-mill, and the other for a flour or barley-mill. Another burn comes into the sea at Old Haven, with a northerly course. It rises about the Longman bill, and in its different branches, with the help of dams, is compelled to thrash the corn of several farmers, in its short course of some two miles. A singular proof of the height of land in Gamrie is, that not a drop of water comes into it from any other parish; the whole rises in itself.

Geology and Mineralogy.—For interesting details respecting the geology of the parish, we refer to the following: Professor Sedgwick and Mr Murchison's papers, Geolog. Soc. Trans. 1827-8. Mr Prestwick's papers on part of the Banffshire coast, including Gamrie, ib. : Poissons Fossils from M. Agassiz. : Prize Essay by Mr Cunninghame, Highland Soc. Trans. 1840.

An excellent section of the parish is presented along the shore of the Moray Frith from the mouth of the Doveran eastward to the mouth of the burn of Tore, of Troup, a distance of ten miles. * * *

The section is particularly instructive, as it displays all the rocks known to occur in the parish, and as nearly as possible in the proportions occupied by them in the horizontal section of the plane.

The principal rock in the parish has been generally believed to belong to the greywacke group, at least Professor Jameson so considers it. Sedgwick and Murchison give no opinion, while Mr Prestwick seems rather inclined to refer it to the primary slates. The rock consists of alternate layers of greywacke, greywacke slate, clay-slate very much broken up and contorted, lying generally at high angles, often vertical, and frequently traversed by quartz veins of inconsiderable thickness. The general direction or stroke of the beds is north by east, the dip is sometimes eastward and sometimes westward; various artificial lines present themselves. The clayslate of one locality, Melrose, was formerly wrought as a coarse roofing-slate and slabstone. These, however, are now superseded by the Foudland and Easdale primary slate. The greywacke is employed as a building stone; its basis is generally highly silicious, and the enclosed fragments are quartz and felspar, with occasional pieces of clay-slate. Scarcely any other imbedded minerals occur. No subordinate calcareous layers occur within the range. In a single locality, the Longmanhill, one and a-half miles south-west of the coast, there appears an upshot of granite, agreeing perfectly in lithological characters with that of

Aberdeen. This granite is occasionally worked, but not hitherto to any great depth; neither have the workings afforded any information respecting the changes produced by it upon the stratified rocks through which it breaks. In the eastern part of the local section are found sandstone, conglomerate, and shales of the old red sandstone. These rest unconformably on the upturned edges of the slates, but faults and dislocations are so numerous as render it almost impossible to determine the exact order of succession of the sandstone and conglomerates.

On the farm of Findon, the Gamrie fish-bed crops out in two ravines. Prestwick's description of the locality is in the main correct. The chief organic remains are contained in calcareous nodules. They are principally of fish, belonging to Agassiz's division, Ganoids; and many of the species are described and figured in his *Poissons Fossils*, while several species subsequently discovered remain undescribed. Vegetable remains, also undescribed, have been found, both in the nodules and imbedding.

The Gamrie fossils are, for the most part, identical with those occurring in the Caithness and Pomona schists, and in the nodules and limestone found at Cromarty and various parts of Morayshire. In the upper alluvial layers shells occur, but, so far as has yet been ascertained, similar to those existing on the coast at present.

The soil of that part of the parish which rests on the sandstone and conglomerate is more fertile than that which rests on the slates, and the springs indicate a greater amount of calcareous matter.

Zoology.—There was lately a goodly show of pheasants in the Troup plantations; but they have been greatly thinned of late years by vermin in the unprotected state of the woods. Active means are now employed against their enemies, and it is likely these elegant inhabitants of the woods will soon multiply again.

But what distinguishes the ornithology of this parish from every other in the county is the annual migration of sea-fowl to it, for the purpose of hatching and rearing their young. The following account of these birds, taken from the *Magazine of Natural History*, is by a gentleman who carefully visits them, for the purpose of ascertaining their habits, generally once a year.

“The rocks of Gamrie are annually resorted to by immense numbers of those birds which are properly denominated sea-fowl, and it is remarkable that the various tribes of which the general body is composed, are most punctual with regard to the particular

period at which they respectively and yearly return from the cold regions of the north, for the important and pleasing purposes of incubation.

“ The varieties which appear in greatest numbers are the kittiwake (provincially kittie), the razor-bill auk (provincially coulter), the guillemot (provincially queet), and, lastly, the puffin (provincially Tammy Norrie). To a stranger who visits, for the first time, the scene of their vernal abode, the spectacle presented is striking and interesting in no ordinary degree. On various portions of the immense rocks, which rise in sublime magnificence before him, sit thousands and tens of thousands of the birds to which we are now directing attention. And it is curious to observe the regularity with which the different species attach themselves to the places most suited to their various wants and capacities. The kittiwakes and guillemots inhabit the firmest and most precipitous of the rocks, on the ledges of which they form their nests. These ledges, when viewed from below, appear to the spectator as scarcely presenting an inch breadth of surface, and yet the birds contrive to form their nests, which, in the case of the kittiwake, is done with grass, and to hatch their young in this seemingly impracticable situation ; although it sometimes, indeed, happens, that, on being suddenly startled, their eggs tumble into the sea. Although associated together, however, no actual intermixture takes place between the two species, for they have each their own particular ledges on which they sit, drawn up like regiments of soldiers in the most imperturbable manner ; and, if startled by more than ordinary alarm from their nests, they nevertheless return after a single evolution in the air, to the important duties from which they had been with difficulty aroused. The two species are easily distinguishable. The kittiwake is at once conspicuous by its snow-white head and breast, its yellowish bill, and its pearly blue mantle ; while the guillemot is recognized by its upright figure, the legs being placed very far back, as is the case with most sea-fowl, and by the great portion of brownish sleek black with which its plumage is diversified. * * On a promontory immediately adjoining, and composed of softer materials, are assembled the puffins, or, in the language of this part of the country, the Tammy Norries, which, laying their eggs in holes burrowed in the earth, cannot, of course, take up their abode on the hard ledges occupied by the birds whose position we have already described. In the same manner, the razor-bills, although associated with the guille-

mots, occupy in general a separate and somewhat soft and perforated part of these enormous precipices, which, in the busy season of spring, teem with life in all directions. These birds (the razor-bills) very much resemble the guillemots in appearance, especially when seen at a distance on wing. They may, however, on a nearer approach, be distinguished from the latter by the broad form of their bills, and by the superior length of their wings, which are, moreover, marked by a conspicuous streak of white along their outward extremity. Some of this enormous body of sea-fowl (probably males) are constantly in motion, either gracefully and lightly swimming about in detached groups on the sea, or, by their circular evolutions in the air, indicating to the yet distant visitor the particular rock where he may hope to encounter them in congregated thousands. And, on a fine day, and under the mild influence of a vernal and unclouded sun, the scene is particularly beautiful. The ocean lies tranquil, and stretched out before the spectator like an immense sheet of glass, smiling in its soft and azure beauty, while over its surface the kittiwake, the guillemot, the razor-bill, and the puffin, conspicuous by the brilliant orange and scarlet of its bill and legs, are beheld wheeling with rapid wing in endless and varying directions. On firing a gun, the effect is even startling. The air is immediately darkened with multitudes which are aroused by the report; the ear is stunned by the varied and discordant sounds which arise. The piercing (wailing) note of the kittiwake, from which its name is derived, the shrill cry of the Tammy Norrie, and the hoarse burst of the guillemot, resembling, as it were, the laugh of some demon, in mockery of the intrusion of man amid these majestic scenes of nature. All these combined, and mingled occasionally with the harsh scream of the cormorant, are heard above the roar of the ocean, which breaks at the foot of these tremendous and gigantic precipices."

Ichthyology.—The river Doveran, which discharges itself into the sea between this parish and that of Banff, contains salmon, trout, and the other common varieties of river fishes. The salmon caught in the river and adjoining bay, and which are cured at Macduff, and prepared for the London market, are let in lease by the proprietor, the Earl of Fife, for a rent of about L.2000 per annum. The river and its tributary streams yield also excellent sport to the angler, and are much resorted to in that way.

But the sea is the great source of revenue to this parish, in the way of fishing, regarding both the amount of value derived from

it, and the number of hands employed and maintained at the work. A variety of kinds of fish are caught on this coast, such as ling, cod, haddocks, whiting, turbot, skate, &c., yielding a supply to the interior, for a considerable number of miles, of wholesome and comparatively cheap food ; leaving also a large surplus to be either pickled or dried, and carried to the friths of Forth, Clyde, and Tay for sale.

Shell-Fish.—The rocky coast about Gamrie abounds in shell-fish. Those used as an article of food are crabs (provincially partons) and lobsters. The former are plentifully used in the neighbourhood, particularly the claws. The lobster, however, is the favourite shell-fish, and besides those used in the neighbouring district, towns, and villages, they have been taken to the London market of late years, by smacks, which come round for them periodically. They are sold at home at 6d. 8d. or 1s. each, and very large ones at 1s. 6d.

Botany.—The great variety of soil and situation occurring in the parish ; the precipitous cliffs on the coast ; and, above all, the deep ravines cut in the sandstone and conglomerate, and the kindly soil afforded by the decomposition of the slate, clays, and conglomerates,—indicate an extensive and peculiar flora ; and, had the parish possessed a careful resident observer, there cannot be a doubt that his results would do more than verify these anticipations.

We have received the following account from a gentleman (John Sheir, Esq. Professor of Agriculture, Marischal College, Aberdeen), well acquainted with the botany of the north of Scotland, and who has paid frequent visits to this locality during the last fifteen years : “ No satisfactory account of the botany of a parish can be given, except by a resident observer. I have carefully examined the notes I took, and the specimens preserved during my frequent excursions to your very interesting locality ; and though the following may not afford you all the information you require, I trust the principal points have not been overlooked.

1st, Plants usually found inland, and at a considerable elevation in mountainous districts, but occurring in Gamrie, on the coast, and but a few yards above the sea level. §*Saxifraga oppositifolia*, †*Saxifraga hypnoides*, **Rhodiola rosea*. 2d, Hitherto held peculiar to the west coast, found abundantly in Orkney and Caithness, and very rarely in four localities in the east coast, but occurring abundantly in this parish, along the tops of the cliffs, §*Scilla verna*.

3d, Common in this parish, but regarded (with what justice let future observers say), as very rare in Scotland, *Rumex aquaticus*, *Rumex hydralpathum*. 4th, The following list will be considered interesting, partly for the *plantæ rariores* it contains, and partly for the contrast it presents to the other published Scottish lists.

The marks prefixed are those used by the Edinburgh Botanical Society.

| | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| † Hippuris vulgaris | † Rumex sanguineus, var β. | § Carex hirta |
| † Veronica montana | § Epilobium tetragonum | * Aspidium lobatum |
| § <i>scutellata</i> | † Chrysosplenium alternifolium | § Cistopteris fragilis |
| § Lithospermum maritimum | | * Asplenium murinum |
| † Myosotis collina | § Agrimonia eupatoria | † ——— Adiantum nigrum |
| * <i>caespitosa</i> | * Vicia sylvatica | § Filix fœmina |
| † Primula veris | § Eupatorium cannabinum | † Scolopendrium vulgare. |
| † Sanicula Europæa | § Orchis mascula | |
| * Parnassia palustris | † Carex extensa | |

The heaths, fruits, and forest-trees, are those which are common in the north of Scotland.

Woods, Plantations, &c.—There are some very pretty and luxuriant belts of wood in the western extremity of the parish, particularly that on the river side, connected with the extensive plantations of Duff House, in the adjoining parishes of Alvah, Banff, and King Edward.

The Earl of Fife has done much to beautify and improve that part of the country; and, among the late improvements, has extended a fence with hedges on either side of the turnpike, with occasional clumps of trees, as also neat cottages and lodges, with tasteful gardens, all the way from Banff and Macduff to the Church of King-Edward, a distance of five miles. The chief plantation in the parish, however, is the Tore of Troup, which, together with the woods of Troup House, measures upwards of 700 imperial acres. The principal wood is beech and Scots fir; the former, much admired for the largeness of the trees and wide-spreading foliage. Larch-fir is now coming more into general use, as it is of more rapid growth, and is considered more durable and suitable for husbandry use than the other kinds of fir in this part of the country. The deepness of the numerous ravines, and the towering height and steepness of the banks, diverging from the bottom or principal glen in all shapes, and at all angles, give the Tore a striking resemblance to a Highland mountain-pass, and render the scenery altogether exceedingly romantic and beautiful; while the proprietors, who have been proverbial for ages for good taste, have made art assist nature in rendering this one of the loveliest spots in the far north.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Parochial Registers.—The parochial registers extend no farther back than 1704. Since that time minutes of the kirk-session's transactions, and of the collections and distributions for the poor, have been regularly kept. Registers of baptisms are also preserved since that time; but in these there are very frequent omissions, owing to the neglect of parents; and parties are very frequently subjected to inconvenience and loss afterwards in consequence of these omissions. A register of marriages has also been kept and preserved since 1757; but no regular account is kept of deaths in the parish.

Antiquities and Historical Events.—These may be taken together, as there is no modern historical event worth mentioning connected with this parish. The greatest object of antiquity is the Old Church, which universally-received tradition relates as having been built at the time of the landing of the Danes in 1004. The following account of the place and its tradition was furnished by the writer to the Aberdeen Magazine, 1832, and is believed by the inhabitants to be substantially correct.

“It is not alone by the natural beauties of the place that this scenery becomes a field peculiarly adapted for the fancy to sport in. These green hillocks, grotesque knolls, rugged rocks, and deep gulleys—these vales which have rested for centuries in peace, were once the scene of deadly conflict; for it was here that our far-off ancestors had to stem the torrent of invading Danes; and this brook, now meandering peacefully over the smooth pebbles, once flowed red with the blood of the slain. That green conical mound that tops the east bank of the den, is the castle hill of Findon. It was garrisoned with a part of the Scotch army stationed here to watch the landing of the Danes; a party of whom effected a lodgement on the opposite bank, in the place where the Old Church now stands. The alarm was immediately given, and communicated by means of fires on the mounds, (several of which mounds yet remain on the highest eminences of this and the neighbouring parishes), which communicated the intelligence rapidly through the kingdom, and quickly brought up reinforcements. Still the Scottish chief (the Thane of Buchan) considered the issue of an attack rather dubious, and, in order to add the enthusiasm of religion to that of patriotism among his followers, made a solemn vow to St John, in presence of the whole army, to build a church to him on the spot where the invaders were encamped, on

condition that the saint would lend his assistance in dislodging them. The superstitious soldiers, thinking this too good an offer for any saint to reject, made themselves sure of St John's co-operation, and entered with alacrity into the plans of their leader; who, being now sufficiently reinforced, sent a detachment round by the head of the den, and these, fetching a compass by the south-west, succeeded in gaining possession of the top of the hill, directly over the Danish main camp, and, by rolling down large stones upon the invaders, obliged them to abandon it, and to make their escape by the north-east brow of the hill which overhangs the sea, where many were killed in the flight; whence the place obtained the name of Ghaemrie, or the running battle. After being dislodged from the east, the Danes formed a new camp, (where the entrenchments are still to be seen), which still preserved their communication with the sea, and also with an extensive barren plain on the top of the hill. Meantime the whole Scottish army, in fulfilment of their leader's vow, set to work and built the church on the spot where the Danes first settled, while both parties were waiting additional reinforcements. The Danes having been joined by a party of their countrymen who had landed at Old haven of Cullen, about four miles westward, made a successful attack on the Scots, and drove them back to the castle hill; and, in spite to Saint John for assisting their enemies, they polluted his sanctuary by making it a stable for their horses. By this time, however, the alarm had spread far and wide, and the Scots, pouring in from all quarters, not only forced back the Danes to their old position on the brow of the hill, but, getting possession of the whole heights, and enclosing them on all sides except that overhanging the sea, they again commenced their murderous work of rolling down stones, while the helpless Danes could neither oppose nor escape, and then rushing down upon them, sword in hand, the Scots cut them to pieces to a man. The Bloody pots (Bloody pits) is still the name of the place, which, being incapable of cultivation from its steepness and exposure to the north blasts, remains to this day in *statu quo*. Besides the round, the crescent, and variously angled figures in the ground, the graves of the Danes are yet to be seen, sunk and hollow, among the rank brown heather, green at the bottom, and surrounded at the borders with harebells and whortleberries, with fragments of rock and large detached stones lying around, and covered with moss.

“ Three of the sacrilegious chiefs were discovered amongst the slain, by whose orders the church had been polluted; and I have seen their skulls, grinning horrid and hollow, in the wall where they had been fixed, inside the church, directly east of the pulpit, and where they have remained in their prison-house 800 years !

“ After the church became a neglected ruin, about twelve years ago, these relics of antiquity (skulls) were pilfered bit and bit, by some of the numerous visitors to the place, (one was subsequently recovered and placed, for greater security, in the Museum of Lit. Inst. Banff, where it is still to be seen,) and nothing of them now remains but the holes in the wall in which they were imbedded.”

There is an old ruin in the farm of Pitgair, called Wallace Castle; with very thick walls, composed of stone and lime half-vitrified, standing on a knoll, in a very romantic spot : but there is no history or tradition known connected with it. The walls have the same appearance as those of the old church, namely, that of great antiquity.

Land-owners.—The land of the parish of Gamrie is nearly equally divided between the Earl of Fife and Francis Garden Campbell, Esq. of Troup and Glenlyon, the former possessing the west end of the parish and the latter the east. The only exceptions are two farms, Whitehall and Greenskairs, west of the old church and den of Afforsk, which, being the only unentailed property on the estate of Troup, were sold during Mr Garden's minority some years ago; Whitehill to Dr Smith in Banff, and Greenskairs to Mr Al. W. Gardiner, who rents the farm and resides in the mansion-house of Melrose, in the immediate neighbourhood. Part of the Fife estates in the parish are in his Lordship's own possession, and part of them in the hands of trustees, in terms of a deed left by his uncle, the late James Earl of Fife.

Eminent Persons.—Several members of the ancient family of the Gardens of Troup have distinguished themselves in the camp, the Court, and Judges' hall. One of Mr Garden's predecessors, Alexander Garden, Esq. of Troup, was unanimously elected Member of Parliament for the county of Aberdeen, in the middle of the last century, during three successive parliaments. He was succeeded by his brother, Lord Gardenstoun, one of the Lords of Session, who was distinguished in his time as an eminent lawyer, a man of letters, and a gentleman of highly cultivated taste and intellect. Several of the family also have served their coun-

try with much approbation, both at home and abroad, as officers in the army. The Barclays de Tolly, one of whom figured in the last war, had their seat in old times at Cullen, in this parish, and their burial-place within the church, where there still remains a Latin inscription, in old characters, recording their name and interment.

Modern Buildings.—The mansion-house of Troup, which was built principally for a sea-view, about seventy years ago, seems at a distance as having rather a bare appearance, from want of wood on the south and east sides; but this appearance gradually wears off in approaching, and when the approach is made, the situation is found to have been well chosen. The ground rises to such a distance in front, towards the south, that wood in that quarter, more or less, would impose a look of confinement and closeness on the whole scenery :—while the opening to the east leaves to the windows in that part of the house, a splendid prospect of the gigantic rocks of Pennon, which, when seen in a mild evening, gilded by the setting sun, and relieved on the one side by the smooth blue ocean; and on the other, by the various shades of green, in the highly cultivated fields, knolls, brakes, and gulleys, presents a scene of natural grandeur seldom equalled.

In the close vicinity of the house, there are two beautiful ravines, meeting at right angles, and nearly half surrounding it, the one on the west and the other on the north. The latter, after passing the house, rises with a gentle acclivity, leaving a fine southern exposure for garden and pleasure-ground. As these glens were tastefully laid out with walks, and planted some thirty or forty years ago, they are now smiling in all the beauty which wood and water, well trained, can give to a place that would be beautiful without either, from its natural position of banks and bracs. As these woods and vales are little seen in the approach from the east, the effect to a stranger arriving from that quarter is heightened by agreeable surprise.

The house itself has been allowed to go into considerable disrepair during the long minority of the present landlord, as well as the sweet Norwegian cottages of the Tere; but when the improvements on the house, &c. projected by the young and spirited proprietor, are carried into execution, it will be exceeded as a baronial residence, by few in the north, and hardly by any in natural beauty of site.

III.—POPULATION.

In 1792, the population is stated as above 3000

| | | | |
|-------|---|---|------|
| 1801, | . | . | 3052 |
| 1811, | . | . | 2858 |
| 1821, | . | . | 3716 |
| 1831, | . | . | 4094 |
| 1841, | . | . | 4742 |

Most of the country inhabitants are employed in agriculture, as farmers, crofters, labourers or farm-servants.

There are five landed proprietors, and thirty tenants paying L. 50 and upwards of yearly rent. The others, as in the following table :

| | Macduff. | Gardenstown. | Crovie. | Country parts. |
|--|----------|--------------|---------|----------------|
| Inhabited houses, . . . | 403 | 72 | 28 | 348 |
| Occupied by families, . . | 484 | 82 | 28 | 355 |
| Houses building in 1831, . | 5 | 0 | 1 | 6 |
| Houses uninhabited in 1831, | 13 | 0 | 2 | 3 |
| Families chiefly employed in agri-
culture, | 41 | 0 | 0 | 238 |
| Do. in trade, manufactures, or
handicraft, | 173 | 20 | 0 | 67 |
| All other families, | 270 | 62 | 28 | 50 |
| Males, | 805 | 148 | 51 | 912 |
| Females, | 1014 | 195 | 64 | 905 |
| Total of persons, | 1819 | 343 | 115 | 1817 |

| | Macduff. | Gardenstown. | Crovie. | Country parts. |
|---|----------|--------------|---------|----------------|
| Total number of males 20 years of
age and upwards, | 413 | 73 | 26 | 480 |
| Occupiers of land employing la-
bourers, | 2 | 0 | 0 | 49 |
| Do. not employing labourers, . | 24 | 0 | 0 | 127 |
| Labourers employed in agriculture, | 11 | 0 | 0 | 170 |
| Males employed in manufactures
or in making machinery, . . | 13 | 0 | 0 | 8 |
| Wholesale merchants, capitalists,
bankers, professional and edu-
cated men, | 11 | 1 | 0 | 6 |
| Retailers, handicraftsmen, as mas-
ters and workmen, | 191 | 20 | 0 | 95 |
| Labourers not agricultural, . | 134 | 45 | 26 | 10 |
| All other males, as pensioners, re-
tired tradesmen, disabled, &c. } | 27 | 7 | 0 | 10 |

The number of illegitimate births in the parish, 12 annually, at an average. There are in the parish 2 insane persons, 4 fatuous, 4 blind.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture and Rural Economy.—Waste land has been improved of late years to a very considerable extent, and its improvement, in most cases, has yielded ample remuneration for expense and labour. These improvements, together with the superior mode of cultivating land now in use, have altogether more than doubled the produce of the soil in this parish since 1790. There

remains yet a large proportion of waste ground that might be brought under cultivation with advantage.

The extent of the Troup estate, according to a late survey, when reduced from Scots to imperial acres, is as follows:—

| | Imp. acres arable
or cultivated. | Do. pasture
or waste. | Do. wood or
planting. | Roads, stances
of houses, &c. |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Troup estate, | 4665 | 4655 | 721 | 184 |
| Whitehill and Greenskains, 360 | | 502 | 0 | 9 |
| Whole, | 5025 | 5157 | 721 | 193 |

Altogether Troup, Whitehill, and Greenskains, are generally considered as amounting to half the parish, both as to extent and value of land; and the following may be taken as a fair average calculation of the whole in imperial acres:—

| | |
|------------------------------|--------|
| Acres cultivated, | 10,000 |
| Acres pasture or waste land, | 10,000 |
| Acres in wood, | 750 |
| Acres in roads, houses, &c. | 300 |

Of the 10,000 acres waste land, about 3000 or 4000 may be capable of tillage, and would yield a fair remuneration for capital laid out on it. The remainder, from the mountainous nature of the ground, want of water on the heights, and other causes, may be considered irreclaimable.

Rent of Land.—

Valued rent.

| | | | |
|--------------------------|---------|---|----------|
| Troup, | L. 2436 | 0 | 0 |
| Whitehill, | 85 | 2 | 2 |
| Greenskains, | 48 | 4 | 6 |
| Earl of Fife, | 1540 | 0 | 0 |
| Earl of Fife's Trustees, | 1380 | 0 | 0 |
| | <hr/> | | |
| | L. 5489 | 6 | 8 Scots. |

The real rental of Troup is upwards of L. 3000, and the whole rental of the parish is between L. 6000 and L. 7000.

The rent per acre varies according to the locality, and the quality of the soil. Good land in the neighbourhood of Macduff rents from L. 3 to L. 1; the best farm land in the country part, from L. 2, 10s., and descends, according to the quality, to about 15s. The average rent of a farm may be from L. 2 to L. 1, 15s. according to the quality.

Recent Agricultural Improvements.—Ploughing and farm-work are, in general, carried to a high degree of improvement in this parish and neighbourhood.

The agricultural improvements which have tended much of late years to increase the value of the produce of the soil have been effected by these means: 1. English lime applied to the land as a

manure ; 2. bone manure ; 3. draining ; 4. the ready conveyance of grain and cattle to the London market by sea ; and 5. the superior mode of culture, and increased attention to the selection of grains suited to the soil, and to the breeding and rearing of cattle.

I have been favoured with the following account from Mr Gardiner of Greenskains, of the improvements on his farm, which are a good specimen of the improvements in the parish generally. “ The first of the more recent agricultural improvements I would take notice of, is bone manure, which was used by me first in the year 1829, and I have continued to use it in large quantities, every successive year, since that time ; raising fine crops of turnips, and the other crops in the rotation equally good ; the grass after the bone manure is particularly rich, and I have often observed that the cattle eat it in preference to grass, after any other manure. The advantages to be derived from this manure in this part of the country are incalculable.

“ The additional turnips raised by it keep a greater number of cattle during the winter, and they of course increase the quantity, and improve the quality of the farm-yard’s dung, which being laid upon the farm the following year with a little more bone dust, must go on increasing the fertility of the farm to a very considerable extent ; and the facility we have here of shipping the cattle to London, and other great markets generally, causes a good demand for the extra number of cattle kept.

“ The next improvement I would take notice of is the wedge-draining, or, as it is termed, the frequent draining system of Mr Smith of Deanston. I commenced this operation in 1834, and, since that time, I have put in about 10,000 ells of these drains, and have found the advantage of them very great, both from the increased quantity of corn raised, and also the superior quality of the grass. This, if properly followed out according to Mr Smith’s plan, I consider the greatest of our modern improvements ; but the expense is so great, that few tenants on a nineteen year’s lease would be justified in going on with it to any great extent, without the proprietor bearing part of the expense. But I am perfectly satisfied, that there is a very great deal of the arable land in this parish that could be more than doubled in value by this improvement.

“ I would next notice the introduction of the short-horned breed of cattle. I have had that breed on my farm since 1835, and find

them thrive uncommonly well, both the pure breed and the first cross from the Aberdeenshire. I can bring them, and have done so, to a greater weight at three years' old, than I used to have the native breed at four year's old; their quality for feeding is decidedly superior; but I do not consider they would be a proper stock for the parish, but on the best farms. I have no hesitation in saying, that for the same quantity of good keep, this will return more money than any other cattle that can be put upon it. But they will never do to be sent to pasture on a heather hill.

"I have kept a flock of about 200 Cheviot sheep for twelve years, bred from the best stocks in Ross-shire and Sutherland. They were at first principally kept on natural grass pasture on the sea braes and burnside, and thrive remarkably well. Within the last few years, I have crossed them with pure Leicester tups, which has increased their size, their propensity to fatten, and also the quantity of their wool. Since using the Leicester tups, I have, in addition to their former natural pasture, been in the habit of depasturing most of my thin arable land by them, which I consider a great advantage on the poor land, first, because a sheep will fatten where an ox would starve, and second, the manner their dung is scattered over the land must add more to its fertility, than if the grass were eaten by cattle. I also allow them in spring a proportion of the turnips on the worst land, to be consumed on the ground. For the reasons I have stated above, it is my humble opinion that the poorest of the arable land in this parish would be more profitable, if stocked with sheep, than with cattle."

Duration of Leases, Crops, &c.—The general length of farm leases in this parish is for the period of nineteen years. A few old liferent leases still remain on the estate of Troup; but none are given in that way now. The fens in Macduff and Gardenston are perpetual.

The chief crops raised in the parish are oats. Barley is raised to a considerable extent, and Scotch bear on some of the farms; wheat, pease and beans, but rarely. Hay, potatoes, and turnips, are raised in regular rotation with oats. Large quantities of grain are shipped annually for the London and other markets, while barley and bear are generally sold to the home brewers and distillers.

There are two rotations of cropping throughout the parish, according as the nature of the different farms is found suitable,—the seven years and the five years. The former consists of two crops

of oats, one of turnip or potatoes, one of barley or oats, and three of grass. The five years' rotation has one crop of oats, one of turnips or potatoes, one of barley or oats, and two of grass. Land is scarcely ever fallowed here, except before a crop of wheat.

Manufactures.—There are five meal-mills in the parish, three saw-mills, one for grinding bones for manure, and another building. At Mr Carny's manufactory of rope and sails at Macduff, 50 tons hemp for sails, value L. 1500; nets, L. 900; total, L. 2400. Capital of the Gas Light Company, L. 1800, pays 5 per cent. Capital of the bone and saw-mill company, L. 10,000.

Of the three fishing stations in the parish, the following account is taken in answer to minute inquiries at the principal curers. The cod, ling, and small fish are principally sold in the towns on the south and west friths, the herrings at Stettin, Hamburgh, Russia, Ireland, the West Indies, &c.

Average number of haddocks, whittings, and other small fish taken in a year:

| | No. of Boats. | Hands
each boat. | Dozens
each boat. | Value per boat. | Whole value. |
|--------------|---------------|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Macduff, | 35 | 4 | 2400 | L. 120 | L. 4200 |
| Gardenstown, | 15 | 4 | 2400 | 120 | 1800 |
| Crovie, | 9 | 4 | 2700 | 135 | 1215 |
| | 59 | — | — | — | L. 7215 |

Cod and Ling Fishing.—

| | Tons in the year. | Value per ton. | Whole value. |
|---|-------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Macduff, | - 15 - | L. 20 - | L. 300 |
| Gardenstown, | - 24 - | 14 - | 336 |
| Crovie, | - 28 - | 14 - | 392 |
| | | | — L. 1028 |
| Lobsters at Gardenstown, 200 at 8d. each, | | - | - 67 |

Herrings.—

| | Boats. | Hands
per boat. | Curers. | Barrels
each boat. | Value. |
|--------------------------------|--------|--------------------|---------|-----------------------|-------------|
| Macduff, | 50 | 4 | 3 | 100 | L. 2100* |
| Gardenstown, | 34 | 4 | 3 | 150 | 2290* |
| | | | | | — 4390 |
| Red herrings cured at Macduff, | | | - | - | - 600 |
| | | | | | — L. 13,300 |

Average value of fish per annum, L. 13,300.

Navigation.—There is a very commodious harbour at Macduff, built chiefly at the expense of the Earl of Fife, the proprietor. An outer harbour was attempted to be built about twenty years ago, at the expense of the same munificent nobleman; but it was almost wholly destroyed by successive storms. The remaining part of it has been secured, and is of considerable use as a break-

* The price of uncured fish paid to the fishermen.

water. There is also a commodious little harbour at Gardentown, built many years ago by the proprietor of Troup. The shipping at the two ports is as follows:—

| | No. of ships. | Tons burthen registered. |
|-------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| Macduff, | 15 | 1036 |
| Gardentown, | 3 | 130 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Whole, | 18 | 1166 |

The exports from both ports generally are, live-cattle for the London market from Macduff, grain, fish; and the imports, lime, coals, salt, wood, and market-goods of all kinds.

Imports and Exports of Macduff for the year from Whitsunday 1836 to do. 1837, which may be considered an average of general years:—

| EXPORTS. | IMPORTS: |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1,630 boxes salmon. | 37,535 barrels lime. |
| 1,390 kitts do. | 54,194 barrels coals |
| 8,173 barrels herrings. | 1,594 quarters bone manure. |
| 17,301 quarters oats. | 1,110 tons bones. |
| 19,904 boils meal. | Wood, value L. 1350. |
| Ships entering and leaving the Ports, 206; tonnage of do. 10,745. | |
| Rent of shore-dues varies from L.230 to L.290. | |

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Market-Towns.—There is a weekly provision market at Macduff on Tuesday, and at Banff, in the immediate neighbourhood, on Friday. Macduff was constituted a royal burgh by charter by George III. in 1783, through the influence of James Earl of Fife, who patronized and greatly improved it. In the early part of the last century, it was only a small fishing village, containing only a few houses, and was called Down; while the land was let in farms. Earl James changed it to Macduff, after his own family name, which is Duff. It is included by the Reform Act within the boundaries of the burgh of Banff, but retains its separate magistrates, namely, a provost, two bailies, and four councillors, elected by the feuars.

Villages.—The village of Gardentown appears from a record in the baptismal register to have been built in the year 1720, and has remained nearly stationary, as to size and population, ever since.

The fishing village of Crovie is above a mile eastward of Gardentown. The date of its commencement is unknown, but supposed to be about the same as that of Gardentown, and Down or Macduff.

A small village called the Longman was commenced on the top of a hill of the same name, about twenty years ago, by the Earl of Fife, on the Banff and Peterhead turnpike; and as the

surrounding waste land was let out in small portions to the feuars, the whole in that neighbourhood has been reclaimed, and is now in a state of cultivation. The locality has, therefore, more the character and appearance of a colony of small crofters regularly set down, than of a village.

Means of Communication.—A stage-coach, which used to carry the mail, passes from Banff to Peterhead daily, through the south district of the parish, for upwards of seven miles. A foot post goes on alternate days on the old coast road, the whole length of the parish from Banff to Fraserburgh, through Aberdour and Pittsligo, going one day and returning the other. A carrier also goes regularly twice a week from Gardenstown to Banff, and another carrier goes weekly between Aberdeen and Gardenstown.

The Fraserburgh postman has no house for the delivery of his letters in the parish, except at Macduff. An application is about to be made for a post-office at Dubford, which the postman passes, and where cross roads branch off in all directions; and as there is a considerable amount of correspondence connected with the trade, fishing, and shipping in Gardenstown, as well as from the interior, it is hoped the application will be successful, as the want of a post-office is the greatest privation in the way of communication that the parish has to endure.

Ecclesiastical State.—It would be impossible for one church to accommodate the whole of this parish, on account of its length and population. To remedy this, a very neat and commodious church was built at Macduff, by the late James Earl of Fife, and allowed a small salary for the minister. It has been used as a Chapel of Ease for many years, with the half of the parish attached to it, as to population, and about one-third in regard to extent.

The parish church now stands about the centre of the eastern or Gamrie district, and is as convenient for the parishioners as the very uneven nature of the land and roads admits of. It was built in the year 1830, is a very neat and comfortable place of worship, and abundantly commodious for the congregation, being seated for 1000 sitters, and capable of holding considerably more. An excellent manse was built in the vicinity of the church for the minister, with a suitable standing of offices. The extent of the glebe is about 13 acres, of which about 10 or 11 are arable. The value is about L. 13. The amount of stipend is 16½ chalders of victual, Linlithgow measure, half barley and half oatmeal, calcu-

lated annually at the fair prices for the county. There is also L.8, 6s. 8d. allowed for communion elements.

The great bulk of the population in this parish are members of the Established Church; and their attendance both at the parish church and at the chapel of Macduff is in general regular and punctual, when the weather and roads permit.

The following is the account taken by the two ministers for a census in 1837:

| | Macduff
district. | Gamrie
district. | Total of
families. |
|------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Episcopalian families, | 18 | 4 | 22 |
| Independent do. | 13 | 5 | 18 |
| United Secession do. | 22 | 2 | 24 |
| Baptists, | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Roman Catholic do. | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Methodist do. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| | <hr/> 59 | <hr/> 14 | <hr/> 73 |

Established Church do. including both districts, 876.

Three or four families, in the south-west of the parish, attend the church of King-Edward, which is much nearer them; and a few on the borders of King-Edward parish, farther east, attend the church of Gamrie for the same reason. The sacrament of the Lord's Supper is dispensed once a-year at both churches, with generally upwards of 700 communicants each. The young are admitted to communion for the first time, after careful instructions and examinations by the ministers for months previous, and strict inquiry into their moral and religious character. The Crown is the sole patron of the parish, and the Earl of Fife's Trustees appoint the minister of Macduff, and pay him a salary of L.80, which they have raised to L.100 for some years past; but, as they will give no bond for his stipend, he has not been admitted to the rank of a *quoad sacra* minister, although ordained to the pastoral office. The Rev. Thomas Wilson is the third of his family, in a direct line, who has held the office of parish minister of Gamrie. His grandfather was ordained to that charge in 1732.

Education.—There are two parochial schools in the parish; one at Gamrie, and the other at Macduff; each has the salary settled by law in such cases, of L.25, 13s. 3¼d. with a share of the Dick Bequest. The amount of fees average at Macduff about L.50, and at Gamrie, L.25. The schoolmaster of Gamrie's other emoluments, as session-clerk, amount to L.12, making his living altogether about L.90, with a house and small garden, the rent of which is paid gratuitously by Mr Garden of Troup, as

that of the schoolmaster of Macduff is by the Earl of Fife's Trustees.

One private school is now taught at Troup; another at Gardentown. A handsome new school is erecting at the Longman village by the Earl of Fife, and subscribers in the neighbourhood. There are three private or subscription male schools in the parish, besides several other chance schools, both male and female, in Macduff. The number of children at the parochial school of Macduff, at one time, may average about 110; those at Gamrie about 50. The whole children at school in Macduff, 300; in the other parts of the parish, above 200. There is a female school in Macduff, with a house and moderate endowment, for the useful and common branches of female education, such as reading, sewing, knitting, &c.; and one at Gardenstown, not endowed. It would be a great benefit to this part of the country, if the parochial system were extended, and made to embrace female as well as male education.

Sabbath-school teaching has been in full operation in this parish for some considerable time past. There are about 200 attending the Sabbath school of Macduff, under the superintendence of the minister and schoolmaster, with six or eight subordinate teachers, male and female; and nearly an equal number attend the different Sabbath-schools in the Gamrie district, under the superintendence of the parish minister; but these are in general more thinly attended in summer than in winter.

Libraries.—There is a good circulating library in Macduff, established and supported chiefly by subscription, and the aid of liberal donations from the Earl of Fife. There is no public library in the Gamrie district, although attempts have been made to have one established. The parochial schoolmaster procured the Kildare Street Library for the use of his scholars, which he finds a great benefit in giving them a taste for useful reading. The minister has also procured one of the Tract Society's Libraries for the Sabbath scholars, which is also very well employed and useful.

Savings Bank.—A parish savings bank, on the national system, was established at Gamrie in 1836, is succeeding remarkably well, and gives promise of becoming of vast benefit to the labouring community. The amount of deposits in August 1840 was above L.1300.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The poor's funds of this parish are nearly exhausted. L.200 was left by the minister's uncle, Hugh

Wilson, Esq. of Jamaica; and L. 20 by a Mr West, for annuities to be paid to certain poor individuals specified; but the sum is not available for the general poor. The average number of paupers on the roll is 100, besides about twenty families that receive occasional aid. The distributions for the relief of single families are, largest, L.7, 16s.; smallest, 6s.; average, L. 2, 3s. 6d. Average amount of contributions for the poor, from church collections, L.100; from voluntary assessment of the heritors, L. 100; from alms, legacies, &c., L.50. The heritors assessed themselves last year to the amount of L.100 to supply present wants; but it is to be feared a public assessment cannot long be avoided.

Inns.—Low public-houses have been a great nuisance in this parish and neighbourhood, for a considerable number of years. There are far too many of them yet in the town of Macduff and the villages.

Fuel.—There was peat fuel in the parish, but it is all exhausted. There is, however, an inexhaustible stock of peat moss, in the hills of Kinbean and Overbrae, in the parishes of Aberdour and King-Edward, and from this the farmers drive a considerable portion of their fuel during summer, at a time when there is little else to do for their servants and horses. Were it not for this, peats would be much more expensive fuel in this parish than coals, which are imported in sufficient abundance during summer to Macduff, Gardenstown, and occasionally to Cullycan, generally from the Newcastle and Sunderland mines.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

A remarkably good feeling has existed, time out of mind, in this parish, between landlord and tenant. The Earls of Fife and the Gardens of Troup have been proverbial for ages as good landlords. One consequence of this is, that the land is not rack-rented, and the cultivators of the soil are in general what is called well to live; while the landlord, on the other hand, has seldom to complain of ill paid rents. It is a rule with both landlords never to move a well doing tenant. And many is the instance in which the farmer can say or sing,

“ The farm I now hold on your honour’s estate
Is the same which my grandfather tilled,” &c.

Another peculiarity among the tenantry, which proceeds, no doubt, from the same cause, is an endless chain of connection, running through them by kindred and intermarriages. With few exceptions, the families of the whole farms on the

estate of Troup are all related in some way to each other. This system of clanship is carried still farther among the fishing population in the villages; the most of whom in Crovie and Gardenstown are of the name of Watt or Wiseman, so that they are obliged to have recourse to nicknames for the sake of distinction. It is a rare thing for them to marry but among themselves, as the manners and habits, as well as the work of the rural population, are quite different from theirs. The influx of strangers, however, at the time of the herring-fishing leads both sexes to form connection with strangers, which will likely in time give more variety of names.

March 1842.

PARISH OF KIRKMICHAEL.*

PRESBYTERY OF ABERNETHY, SYNOD OF MORAY.

THE REV. ALEXANDER TULLOCH, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—THE parish takes its name from the church, which was dedicated, previous to the Reformation, to St Michael, and called after his name, St Michael's Kirk, or Kirkmichael.

Extent and Boundaries.—The parish is upwards of 30 miles in length from north to south along the banks of the Avon, a tributary branch of the Spey; and its average breadth is from 3 to 4 miles. Only about eighteen miles of its length is inhabited. The other twelve or fifteen miles stretch into the Grampian hills, and are uninhabited. Of this territorial extent, about nine miles of the inhabited part, and all the uninhabited portion, lie in the *quoad sacra* parish of Tomintoul. The main range of the Grampian mountains on the south, and branches of that range running from south to north on the east and west form its boundaries, and encircle it, except on the north, where it joins the parish of Inveravon in a narrow neck at the outlet of the Avon.

Mountains.—The whole mountainous range of Glenavon, including the north side of Benmacdui and the east side of Cairn-

* Drawn up by the Rev. Charles Macpherson, Minister of Tomintoul.

gorum, the highest mountain in the Grampian chain, lies in the southern extremity of the parish. The forest of Glenavon contains from 60,000 to 70,000 imperial acres, and has been lately set off by the Duke of Richmond, the proprietor, as a deer-forest. Cairngorum and Benmacdui rise respectively to the heights of 4060 and 4362 feet above the level of the sea, and retain the unmelted snow in the ravines on their ample sides generally all the year round. The general appearance of the parish is mountainous. Its inhabited parts consist of the narrow valley of the Avon, and the tributary glens of the Conglass and Kebat on the east, and the Lochy on the west.

Meteorology.—The temperature of the atmosphere, as ascertained at Tomintoul by daily observation at 9 A. M., for the year 1839, was as follows: The observations were made on Fahrenheit's thermometer in the shade. Average monthly temperature, January, 25° ; February, $27\frac{6}{7}^{\circ}$; March, $29\frac{2}{3}^{\circ}$; April, $36\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$; May, 42° ; June, $56\frac{3}{4}^{\circ}$; July, $56\frac{1}{16}^{\circ}$; August, $52\frac{5}{8}^{\circ}$; September, $49\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$; October, $41\frac{7}{8}^{\circ}$; November, $34\frac{1}{3}^{\circ}$; December, $29\frac{1}{4}^{\circ}$. Average daily temperature for the year, $43\frac{1}{4}$. The coldest day was the 26th November, 8° , and the warmest the 17th June, 79° . An extraordinary snow storm occurred on the 13th May, and continued to the 16th. The snow drifted to the depth of many feet. On the 14th, the thermometer stood on an average of the whole day, 6° under the freezing point. The pressure of the atmosphere was as follows: Average monthly pressure, January, 28.99 inches; February, 28.92 in.; March, 29.13 in.; April, 29.6 in.; May, 29.57 in.; June, 29.46 in.; July, 29.29 in.; August, 29.44 in.; September, 28.88 in.; October, 29.66 in.; November, 29.2 in.; December, 29.13 in. Average pressure for the year was 29.37 inches. The pressure was least on the 7th January at 9 A. M., 26.3 inches, and greatest on the 29th October at 9 A. M., 30.7 inches.

Hydrography.—The only river worthy of the name in the parish is the Avon, or rather this water is a deep rapid stream, clear as crystal, which, after running a course of about forty miles, and being increased by many tributary streams, falls into the Spey at Ballindalloch, in the parish of Inveravon. Salmon is found in the Avon from the month of June till towards the latter end of the year.

Lakes.—Lochavon lies in the southern extremity of the parish, in the bosom of the Grampian mountains. It is estimated at three miles long and a mile broad. The scenery around it is particu-

larly wild and magnificent. The towering sides of Bein-bord, Bein-macdui, Cairngorum, and Bein-bainac, rise all around it, and their rugged bases skirt its edges, except at the narrow outlet of the Avon, at its eastern extremity. Its water is quite luminous, and of great depth, especially along its northern side. It abounds in trout of a black colour and slender shape, differing much in appearance from the trout found in the limpid stream of the Avon, which issues from it. At the west end of the lake is the famous Clach-dhian or shelter stone. This stone is an immense block of granite, which seems to have fallen from a projecting rock above it, rising to the height of several hundred feet, and forming the broad shoulder of Benmacdui. The stone rests on two other blocks imbedded in a mass of rubbish, and thus forms a cave sufficient to contain twelve or fifteen men. Here the visitor to the scenery of Lochavon takes up his abode for the night, and makes himself as comfortable as he can, where "the Queen of the storm sits," and at a distance of fifteen or twenty miles from all human abode. There are various other small lakes called *na-du-lochan* or the *black lochies*, a little to the south-east of Lochavon, towards the forest of Braemar. These also abound in trout, and afford good sport to the angler. Lochbuilg lies between Inchrory and the Garron on the Beallach-dearg road. It is upwards of a mile long and about half that breadth, and abounds also in trout.

Geology.—The whole range of the Grampian Hills is composed of granite rock. There is a bed of sandstone of rather soft and friable quality, running across the whole breadth of the parish at Tomintoul; and farther down, there is a bed of slate-stone, also running across the parish near the parish church. There is a slate quarry wrought in this bed close by the banks of the Avon. It produces excellent gray slates and pavement slabs, not inferior perhaps to any in Scotland. Limestone abounds in almost every part of the parish. Ironstone is found in the south-eastern extremity of the parish, in the Hill of the Leacht. About a century ago, the iron ore from this place was transported sixteen miles across the country on horseback, and manufactured with charcoal from the woods of Abernethy by an Iron Company established there. The ore is considered rich, and is to be found in great abundance.* Fluor spar is found in the Braes of Avon, and there

* Specimens of it have been analyzed and found to contain 85 per cent. of iron. It is also interspersed with rich veins of manganese, of which a considerable quantity has been dug out, in the course of last summer, by workmen employed by the Duke of Richmond. It is proposed to carry on the mining of this valuable mineral, which

is an extensive marl-bank close by the Avon, a little below Inch-rory, in the southern extremity of the inhabited part of the parish, but it is not available for agricultural purposes, from the want of a road to it. If there were any access to this marl-bank, it would be of great value in the parish.

There is a considerable portion of the arable soil alluvial, *i. e.* on the haughs of the Avon, and its tributary streams; and the greatest part of the remainder rests on lime-rock, and consists of a rich loam. The soil, on the whole, is productive, and worthy of a better climate.

Zoology.—The eagle is still found in the forest of Glenavon. It builds its eyrie in some inaccessible rock, and continues from year to year to hatch its young in the same spot. One of these noble birds was killed some years ago, which measured upwards of six feet from tip to tip of the wings. The following incident, illustrative of the habits of birds and beasts of prey, may not be unworthy of notice. One of the keepers of the forest being one day reclining on the side of a hill, observed an eagle hovering about for its prey, and darting suddenly down, it caught hold of a polecat, with which it rose up and flew away in the direction of an immense cliff on the opposite hill. It had not proceeded far, when he observed it abating its course, and descending in a spiral direction, until it reached the ground. He was led from curiosity to proceed towards the spot, which was about a mile distant from him, and there he found the eagle quite dead, with its talons transixed in the cat. The cat was also dead, with its teeth fixed in the eagle's gullet. Foxes were, some years ago, numerous in the mountain ranges of the parish, and were very destructive to the flocks, but it is believed that they are now nearly extirpated. Otters, weasels, polecats, and rabbits, are found in the parish. All sorts of game, such as grouse, hares, snipe, and partridges, abound over the whole parish. Ptarmigan, also, are numerous on the Grampian hills. Exclusive of the immense forest of Glenavon, (now being stocked with deer,) the shooting on the Duke of Richmond's portion of the hills alone lets at about L.300 a-year.

The domestic animals are all of the ordinary kind, but conside-

it is expected will pay well and give employment to a number of work people. Plumbago is also found in considerable quantity and of good quality in the immediate neighbourhood.

rable improvement is now taking place in the breed of cattle, horses, and sheep.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Eminent Men.—Of military officers connected with the parish, may be mentioned Major-General William Alexander Gordon, C. B. of Inverlochy, (of the ancient and respectable Gordons of Croughly,) an officer of undaunted courage and intrepidity, who, at the memorable battle of the Nieve, at the head of the light infantry of General Hill's division, led the van in crossing the river, dislodged the enemy on the opposite bank, and turned the fortune of the day in favour of the British arms. The General still lives to enjoy his well earned honours and the respect of his countrymen. He had three brothers officers in the army, one of whom, James Gordon, Esq. of Revack, in Strathspey, retired from the paymastership of the 92d Highlanders at the close of the Peninsular war, and now lives beloved and respected by his family, and a numerous circle of friends and acquaintances.—Another family, that of the late Mr Samuel Middleton of Inveroury, has been equally eminent in the military department. One of his sons, Lieutenant-Colonel William Middleton, an accomplished gentleman and officer, has lately retired from the command of the 42d Highlanders, after an active service of more than thirty years, principally abroad. Another of them, Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Middleton, retired from the command of a cavalry regiment some years ago, and two more of his sons, John and Alexander, the one a captain, and the other a quartermaster, lost their lives in the service of their country. The promotion of this family rested solely on their own individual merit and bravery.—Another family, that of the late Captain Robert Macgregor of Delavorar, also furnished four meritorious officers for the King's service. The last of them, Captain Charles Macgregor, a worthy gentleman and magistrate, died at Delavorar some years ago.

Land-owners.—The sole land-owners are the Duke of Richmond and the Earl of Seafield. The former owns about nine-tenths, and the latter about one-tenth of the parish.

Parochial Registers.—The parochial registers have been very imperfectly kept. There are no original records previous to the beginning of the present century. At that period, there were some fragments of registers of births and marriages extending as far back as the year 1725. These were collected and transcribed about the year 1800, but there are considerable blanks in the manuscript.

The earliest entry in the register of births is in the year 1725, and of marriages, in 1726. There are no records of minutes of discipline previous to the year 1810, and even since that period, these records have not been regularly kept.

III.—POPULATION.

The population, taken at different times during the last eighty-four years, is as under:—

| | |
|---|------|
| In 1755, according to Dr Webster's report, | 1288 |
| 1792, according to the last Statistical Account, | 1276 |
| 1811, as taken under the direction of Parliament, | 1386 |
| 1821, Do. Do. | 1570 |
| 1831, Do. Do. | 1741 |
| 1839, as ascertained by correct enumeration, | 1722 |

Of the population of 1831, there were 836 males, and 905 females. During upwards of fifty years previous to the commencement of the present century, the population appears to have remained nearly stationary. But, during the first thirty years of this century, it increased between 400 and 500. This increase has been owing to the introduction of an improved system of husbandry during that period, and the great kindness of Dukes Alexander and George Gordon to their tenantry, and their desire to continue them and their families on the estate, and promote their welfare. It may also be mentioned, as conducing to this increase of the population, that Alexander Duke Gordon gave great encouragement to the village of Tomintoul; in consequence of which the village increased from 37 to 143 families during the same period.

Since the year 1831, there has been a decrease of 19 on the population. This decrease is accounted for by the great failure of the crops during the last four years, and by the village of Tomintoul having been enlarged beyond the maximum of its resources for supporting its inhabitants, many of whom are now obliged to leave it; and also by a desire, manifested on the part of the proprietors, to enlarge the farms in the parish, with the view of increasing the comfort of those who occupy the soil; and it is more than probable, that, from the operation of the two last mentioned causes, the population will continue to decrease, at least for some time.

| | |
|---|------------|
| The population in the village of Tomintoul is | 530 |
| landward part of the parish of Tomintoul, | 458 |
| Kirkmichael, | 734 |
| | <hr/> 1192 |
| Total, | <hr/> 1722 |

The births in the parish for the last seven years are as under :

| Year. | Protestant births
in <i>quoad sacra</i> pa-
rish of Tomintoul. | Protestant
births in
Kirkmichael. | Roman
Catholic
births. | Total. |
|-------|--|---|------------------------------|-----------|
| 1833, | 18 | 14 | 20 | 52 |
| 1834, | 20 | 4 | 10 | 34 |
| 1835, | 29 | 8 | 25 | 62 |
| 1836, | 19 | 8 | 16 | 43 |
| 1837, | 23 | 5 | 19 | 47 |
| 1838, | 16 | 3 | 18 | 37 |
| 1839, | 18 | 3 | 15 | 36 |
| | <hr/> 143 | <hr/> 45 | <hr/> 123 | <hr/> 311 |

From this table, which has been constructed from the registers, it appears that the average Protestant births in the *quoad sacra* parish of Tomintoul, among a population of 623, has been, for each of the last seven years, $20\frac{3}{7}$; and in Kirkmichael, among a population of 614, $6\frac{3}{7}$; and among a Roman Catholic population of 485, $17\frac{4}{7}$. Average annual births in the whole parish, $44\frac{3}{7}$. From a comparison of the Protestant population allocated to the parish church, with the number of births, it is evident that not a third of them is registered.

The number of Protestant marriages for the last seven years in the *quoad sacra* parish of Tomintoul is 14, average yearly 2; at Kirkmichael, 32, average yearly, $4\frac{4}{7}$; Roman Catholics, 16, average yearly, $2\frac{2}{7}$.* Average yearly in the parish, $8\frac{6}{7}$. There is no register of deaths kept.

| | |
|---|------------|
| The number of persons under 15 years of age, is | 664 |
| betwixt 15 and 30, | 375 |
| 30 and 50, | 371 |
| 50 and 70, | 219 |
| upwards of 70, | 93 |
| Total, | <hr/> 1722 |

There are 20 individuals above eighty years of age, 3 are above ninety, and there is a married couple, each of whom is above eighty-seven years, and who have lived happily together in the bands of wedlock upwards of sixty years.

There are two proprietors of land of the yearly value of L.50 and upwards.

In the *quoad sacra* parish of Tomintoul, in a population of 988, there are 10 widowers and 41 widows. There are 13 bachelors and 4 widowers above fifty years of age, and 50 unmarried women and 37 widows above forty-five years of age. There are 225 families; of these, 123 have married couples at their head. The other 123 are superintended by widowers, widows, bachelors, and

* It appears that this number of marriages registered at Kirkmichael includes several of the marriages registered at Tomintoul, both Protestant and Roman Catholic.

spinsters. There are 313 under twelve years of age, and 187 under seven years. There are 187 who usually employ themselves as servants,—being 120 more than the number of individuals in that capacity which the parish requires.

The number of illegitimate births for the last twelve years is somewhat under an average of 3 each year.

There are 362 families in the parish. The average number of individuals in each family is $5\frac{2}{3}$ in the landward part of the parish, and $3\frac{3}{4}$ in the village. There are two fatuous persons, and two dumb.

The language generally spoken is the Gaelic, but it has decreased very considerably within the last forty years. There is not an individual between twelve and forty years of age who cannot speak English. They all read English, and there are many of the rising generation who cannot speak Gaelic.

The people have improved much of late years in the habits of industry and cleanliness. Amidst many difficulties and privations, they enjoy, in a reasonable degree, the comforts and necessities of life, and are a contented and happy people, enthusiastically attached to their kindred and country, of unshaken loyalty, and firmly adhering to the civil and religious institutions of the land.

Upon the whole, the inhabitants of this parish may be said to be an intellectual, moral, and religious people.

Poaching in game and salmon, though much on the decrease, is not wholly exterminated. Private distillation, and smuggling in ardent spirits, which not many years ago prevailed universally, and which tended much to the demoralization of the people, are now wholly unknown.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

The number of acres, standard imperial measure, which is cultivated within the parish, is about 2400. The number of acres which never have been cultivated, and which remain constantly waste or in pasture, is uncertain, but of great extent; it is estimated in the last Statistical Account at 80,000, exclusive of the forest of Glenavon, which is not less than 60,000, say 140,000 in whole.

There is not an acre of planted wood in the parish; but the greater part of the valley of the Avon is interspersed with natural growing birch and alder, which adds much to the beauty of the scenery; but the wood is of little value, as no care is bestowed upon the management of it. The average rent of arable land per im-

perial acre, is about L. 1, 3s.; but some extent of pasture land is allotted to each farm rent free, and several districts in the parish have a privilege of pasturing sheep and cattle in common over the hills and moors.

Wages.—The rate of wages for farm-servants in the year is from L.9 to L.12 for ploughmen, and from L.3 to L.4, 10s. for women-servants, with victuals.

Live-stock.—The black-faced sheep are the common breed in the parish, and of cattle the west Highland is preferred. That attention to their improvement which would be desirable, has been for a long time neglected, but of late years, from the encouragement given by the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland, by the distribution of their premiums, more attention is now given to the improvement of the breeds. Some tenants of capital and enterprise have brought into the parish animals of a superior kind, and it is to be expected that the improvement in this important branch of agriculture will still advance.

The total number of cattle in the parish of Tomintoul is 801; of sheep, 6536; of goats, 410; and of horses, 188.

The general mode of husbandry pursued is the six shift rotation, viz. green crop, barley or bear sown with grass, two grass crops, and two corn crops. This system was introduced about thirty years ago, and has tended much to increase the quantity of grain raised, and the number of cattle reared. The Duke of Richmond now restricts his principal tenants to a five shift rotation of cropping.

Leases, &c.—The general duration of leases is nineteen years. These, with few exceptions, expire in 1842. Considerable improvement has been made within the last twenty years, in the building of dwelling-houses and farm-steadings. The buildings on the farms of Inverlochy, Croughly, Ruthven, and Delavorar, are very substantial and commodious. The tenants on these farms, and generally in the parish, have of late years improved and enlarged their farms by draining, enclosing, and cultivating waste ground; and by the encouragement now offered by the Duke of Richmond, the proprietor of the principal part of the parish, there is no doubt but with the commencement of new leases this improvement will proceed still more rapidly.

Raw Produce.—

| | |
|--|--------|
| The average produce of grain of all kinds, whether cultivated for the food | |
| of man or the domestic animals, may be estimated at | L.3500 |
| Of potatoes and turnips cultivated in the fields, at | 1200 |
| Of hay, | 300 |

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Village.—Tomintoul is the only village in the parish. It is situated about five miles south of the parish church. It was commenced in the year 1750, and now contains a population of 530. It has five markets held annually in it. There is no system of police established. The villagers subsist chiefly on the produce of their tenements and the small lots of land which they rent from the heritor. The average quantity of land attached to each tenement is about two acres. There are 120 tenements, and 143 families, 56 of the families occupy all the land. The tenure is a 114 years' lease of the tenement, consisting of 36 falls. The lease commenced in 1825. There is no branch of trade or manufacture established in the village, and the lots of land are too small for the comfortable maintenance of those who occupy them. There are 87 families depending on handicraft, trade, or on their industry as common labourers, or on charity for their maintenance. The site of the village was a bleak and barren moor previous to its erection in 1750, and still from its exposed situation, and having no wood near it, it presents a bleak and barren aspect. It is the highest in elevation above the sea, and probably the farthest distant from the sea of any village in Scotland of the same extent and population.*

Means of Communication.—The parish presents the greatest facilities and inducements for being made one of the most public thoroughfares of any Highland parish in Scotland, yet it is curious, if not extraordinary, fact, that it is shut out from all communication with the surrounding countries, and remains at this moment nearly as unapproachable as it was a hundred years ago. Whilst the improvements of late years have brought turnpike roads

* Tomintoul, or *tom-an-t'sabhail*, signifies the barn hillock. There was a small farm near where the site of the village now is, having the barn on a gentle eminence, at a little distance from the dwelling-house. This eminence or hillock took its name from the circumstance of having the barn placed on it, and hence the name of the village. Previous to the erection of the village, and many years thereafter, this little farm and all the ground now occupied by the village and attached to it, did not produce L.30 of yearly rent to the proprietor. It now produces nearly L.300. More than three-fourths of the land has been improved by the villagers within the last forty years, from barren moor and bog, with a wet, gravelly, impervious subsoil. The rent now charged for this ground is about L.1 per acre, which seems altogether out of proportion to its quality and produce. From minute calculation of the produce of the crop of 1838, in the whole village, it was ascertained that the land rent for every boll of meal produced was L.4, 18s. 2d., and taking the three crops and rents of 1836, 1837, and 1838 together, the land rent paid per boll of produce, was L.2, 5s. 2d.; but these years, together with 1839 and 1840, formed a series of unprecedentedly bad years—the crop of each of them in succession being nearly all destroyed by frost in the month of August.

within some miles of it on the north and east, none of them have yet reached its boundaries, and on the south and west there is not a turnpike within thirty miles of it. There is a daily post to Tomintoul, and several small carriers go weekly, or as occasion requires, to Elgin and Forres. The supply of merchant goods is brought chiefly from Aberdeen. The long-projected south and north line of road from the shores of the Moray Frith to Perth, lies through the parish. This line of road, if opened, would create a transit of all marketable commodities, both to the north and south, and bring Elgin and Perth about fifty miles nearer each other. An east and west line from Aberdeen to Inverness also lies through the parish. This line if opened, would cross the former in the village of Tomintoul, and be fully as short as the present line by Keith and Huntly. There are only twenty-one miles of it to open from Grantown to Strathdon, through this parish. The opening of these two great lines of road would promote the means of communication in every direction, and conduce greatly to the improvement and prosperity of the parish. The present mail route between Tomintoul and Perth (by Dundee and Aberdeen), is 167 miles, whereas by the proposed line by Braemar it is only 67. This line was surveyed in the year 1810 by direction of the Commissioners for making Highland roads and bridges. It was again surveyed in the year 1832, by direction of the Lord Lieutenant of Morayshire, and other noblemen and gentlemen interested; and again in 1839 by direction of the trustees of the Blairgowrie and bridge of Cally turnpike road. The total estimated expense of completing the whole line from Elgin to Perth is variously stated in these surveys at about L. 18,000 to L. 23,100. It is calculated that the free revenue to be derived from tolls would yield 5 per cent. interest for upwards of L. 13,000 of this sum, and that about L. 10,000 will have to be subscribed by the heritors and others more immediately benefited by the undertaking. It is much to be regretted that after so many repeated attempts, during upwards of thirty years, this comparatively small sum could not be raised for the accomplishment of such a great national improvement. The only portion of the line at present impassable by wheeled carriages lies between Tomintoul and Castletown of Braemar, a distance of twenty-one miles, and the highest estimate for opening this portion, including the expense of a bridge over the Dee, is only L. 8200. It is, however, still to be hoped that the public

spirit of the heritors on this principal portion of the line, aided by Government and all others concerned, will surmount every obstacle, and speedily open up this great and important line of communication between the north and the south of Scotland.

Ecclesiastical State.—The church was built in the year 1807. It contains sufficient room for 350 persons. It is situated about four miles from the northern extremity of the parish, and fourteen from the southern. Since the erection of Tomintoul into a parish *quoad sacra*, its situation, (as regards the congregation now attending it,) is the most convenient that could be chosen. It is a plain building, in tolerable repair. It has no gallery, but is of sufficient size for the congregation allocated to it. The sittings are all free. The glebe is about nine acres. The stipend is 15 chalders, at the fairs prices of the county of Banff, one-half in oatmeal, and the other half in barley, with L.8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements. The manse and offices were rebuilt on a new site on the glebe in 1825, and are in good repair. The manse is an elegant and commodious dwelling, situated on the top of a romantic knoll, 200 or 300 feet above the level of the Avon, and commanding an extensive view of the picturesque valley of the Avon to the south, with the summits of the Grampian Hills in the distance. The good taste and liberality of the Rev. Mr Tulloch, the present incumbent, have done much in adding to the elegance of the manse, by his improvements in planting and inclosing around it, and in opening up approaches to it.

There is a Government church and manse in the village of Tomintoul. It was built by Government in 1826, at an expense of L.750 for the church, and L.738 for the manse. It is situated five miles from the parish church. The district allocated to it was erected into a parish *quoad sacra* by the General Assembly of 1833. The stipend is L.120, including communion elements, and is paid by Government. There is a glebe of half an acre, with another half acre and two roods for a garden and site of the church, manse, and the church-yard. The church affords accommodation for 336 sitters, and is built to admit of a gallery to contain about 200 more. Two-thirds of the area are let at from 6d. to 9d. each sitting, annually; the proceeds to be applied in keeping the church and manse in repair; but the collection of the seat rents has been discontinued for some years. The other third

part is allotted as free sittings. The manse is a neat cottage of one storey, consisting of seven apartments.

There is a Roman Catholic chapel also in the village. It is a very substantial and capacious building, and includes the priest's dwelling-house, which consists of eleven apartments. It was built in 1838, and is sufficient to accommodate 464 persons on the ground area, besides space for galleries to accommodate 300 more. The sittings at present fitted up are for 368 individuals. The expenses of the building were defrayed by private subscriptions over the three kingdoms. These are stated as exceeding L.1200; but the exact amount, or how much has been expended on the building, is not known. The bishop resides at Presshome, in the Enzie, near Fochabers. The priest is paid by the seat-rents of the chapel, which are let at from 2s. to 4s. each sitting. He has also the interest of L.400, bequeathed by a native of this parish to the priest at Tomintoul, besides the annual allowance of about L.9 from the fund for the maintenance of the Roman Catholic clergy. The number of families attending the parish church is 115, and the individuals, 614. The number attending the church at Tomintoul is 148 families, and 623 individuals. Total attending both the Established churches, 263 families, and 1237 individuals. The number attending the Roman Catholic chapel is 99 families, and 485 individuals; and as the chapel is sufficient to accommodate 764 persons, it appears that the munificence of the supporters of Popery has, as in this instance, furnished accommodation for 279 individuals more than the whole congregation, young and old, attending it consists of. Divine service at the Established Church is generally well attended. A great improvement has taken place in this respect of late years, although there are a few nominal adherents of the Church of Scotland, who still retain the pernicious habit of going to church only occasionally, or not at all.

The average number of communicants in the church at Tomintoul is 150, and in the parish church, 143: total, 293. There are occasional collections and subscriptions raised for the General Assembly's schemes for religious purposes, for the Bible Society, and for the infirmary at Aberdeen. These collections and subscriptions amount annually to about L.10.

Education.—There are three permanent schools in the parish, 1. the parish school, near the parish church. It is attended by

about 20 scholars annually. The teacher has the maximum salary of L.34, 4s. 4½d., besides being eligible for a share of Mr Dick's bequest of from L.20 to L.30 a year. The school-fees average about L.3 a year. By the liberality of the heritors, the teacher has a dwelling-house of six apartments, and a commodious school-room sufficient to contain about 100 scholars. The school-room was built in 1836, and both school-room and dwelling-house are in good repair. The teacher has a garden and croft of land sufficient to keep a cow. He has L.1 a year of fee as session-clerk, besides the usual perquisites of office, which do not amount to more than L.2. 2. There is a school in the village of Tomintoul. The school is at present on no established footing. The teacher receives L.17, 3s. 3d. a year as a gratuity from His Grace the Duke of Richmond. The parochial school was situated in Tomintoul until the year 1835, and the teacher still enjoys the accommodations. The school is attended by upwards of 100 scholars annually. The school-fees average about L.14 a year. There are measures now in progress for erecting this school into a parochial school, under the Act I. Victoria, c. 87. The heritors have liberally undertaken to enlarge the accommodations, so as to entitle the teacher to the maximum salary; and it is expected that he will be also eligible for a share of Mr Dick's bequest. An active and efficient teacher will thus be suitably encouraged. Besides the ordinary branches of English reading, writing, arithmetic, and English grammar, such scholars as may require it are taught Latin, mathematics, and geography at both these schools. The school-fees charged from those who can pay, are 2s. a quarter for reading, with 6d. additional for writing, and 1s. additional for arithmetic and English grammar. Five shillings a quarter are charged for the higher branches; but a considerable proportion of the scholars are unable to pay any fees. The greater number of them attend only about a quarter in the year—many of them for a shorter period. 3. There is another school in the village, endowed by the Trustees of the late Mr Donaldson of Aberdeenshire. The salary is L.26. The school is attended by upwards of 100 scholars annually. No fees are charged; and only the elementary branches of education are taught.

Besides these, there are commonly two or three schools on the teachers' own adventure in remote corners of the parish. These are taught only during the winter season. One of these schools,

in the Braes of Avon, is usually attended by from 40 to 50 children. This portion of the parish is from seven to thirteen miles distant from the parish school, and from two to eight miles from the schools of Tomintoul. The population of the Braes of Avon is 280 souls. Of these 70 are under twelve years of age. An additional school is much required in this station.*

Library.—There is a small circulating library belonging to the *quoad sacra* parish of Tomintoul. It consists at present of 160 volumes, chiefly religious and historical.

Friendly Societies.—Various attempts were made some years ago to establish friendly societies in the parish and neighbourhood, but, being based on erroneous principles and under improper management, none of them succeeded.

There is no Savings bank in the parish, nor within twenty miles of it; and it is not known that any of the population invest any of their earnings in any of these institutions at a distance. It is believed that a Savings bank instituted in the parish, would be productive of great advantage, by inducing the labouring population to save their earnings, and make some provision for sickness and old age.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The average number of persons receiving parochial aid is about 80. They receive from 5s. to L. 2 each annually. These allowances are very inadequate to the maintenance of the poor, and much more depends on the private benevolence of the community than on the poor's funds for maintaining them. Such of them as are able, assist in supporting themselves by any industry of which they are capable. Others obtain supply by going from house to house, whilst those who are disabled by sickness or old age from doing any thing, are supported by the alms-givings of the neighbours sent into their houses.

The following natives of the parish may be here mentioned: Miss Isabella Macpherson of Tomachlaggan, who, by her talents and industry, acquired a respectable rank and fortune in Edinburgh, and after making provision for all her relations, bequeathed L.350 to the poor of the parish, which laid the foundation of the handsome permanent funds now belonging to the poor. Mr Eneas Ca-

* These facts refer to the state of the Braes of Avon previous to the year 1839. Since then, more than half the population has been removed by the new system of enlarging the farms, and many more will soon be removed from the same cause. This removal of the population removes also the necessity of any additional school in this district of the parish.

meron of Ballinlish, a partner of the North-West Company in America, left considerable property to his relations, and destined L. 100 to the support of the poor. Messrs James and Gabriel Stewart of Culis amassed a handsome fortune by their business in London, and the former bequeathed L.1000 to the poor; and Mr George Gordon of Fodderletter, of whom honourable mention is made in the last Statistical Report, as a chemist and botanist, left L. 50 to the poor, which, under the provisions of his deed of settlement, has now accumulated to L. 155. Mr M'Donald of Grantown also bequeathed L. 45 to the poor.

The annual amount of contributions for the poor is about L.95. Of this sum there is about L.17 collected in the parish churches. Charitable donations make about L. 13 a year more. Of this sum, the Duke of Richmond has given L. 10 for the last few years. There is a fund of L.760, bequeathed by various benevolent individuals belonging to the parish, which yields about L. 30 of yearly interest; and there is a sum of L.1000 in the hands of William Forbes Stewart, Esq. of London, for which he pays about L.35 yearly interest. Two-thirds of the interest of this last sum is destined to the support of the Roman Catholic poor in the parish, under the management of the Roman Catholic Priest, the other third is under the management of the kirk-session, for behoof of the Protestant poor.

The spirit of independence and a desire to refrain from seeking parochial relief prevails to a considerable extent among the poor, but, it is believed, that, in proportion as the means of extending parochial aid to them are increased, this spirit of independence decreases.

Owing to severe harvest frosts, the crops of 1836, 1837, and 1838, were almost complete failures, especially the crop of the year 1838; and it was found necessary, towards the beginning of 1839, to raise extraordinary supplies for the maintenance of the poor. On application to the committees in London and Glasgow for the management of a fund raised for the relief of the destitute in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, a grant of L.150 was obtained. This sum, aided by other sources, afforded the means of distributing $167\frac{1}{2}$ bolls of meal in the parish, which relieved the necessities of 198 families.

Prisons.—Any criminal offenders in this part of the country, of whom the number is happily very small, are sent to the county-jail

at Banff, a distance of about fifty miles. There is a lock-up-house in the village of Tomintoul, under the charge of a district constable. But this place of safe keeping is comparatively useless, from the want of any resident magistrate, or efficient means of securing those disturbers of the public peace, who not unfrequently infest the village, and annoy the peaceful and well-inclined portion of the community. There are five markets held annually in Tomintoul, viz. on the last Friday of May, new style; on the last Friday of July, old style; on the third Wednesday of August, old style; on Friday after the second Tuesday of September, old style; and on the second Friday of November, old style. These markets are principally for the sale of cattle and sheep, and engaging servants.

Inns.—There are four inns or public-houses in Tomintoul, and two in the country part of the parish. It is much to the credit of Mr Skinner, the Duke of Richmond's factor for this parish, that he strenuously opposes the indiscriminate licensing of dram-houses.

Fuel.—The only description of fuel used in the parish is moss-peat.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The more striking variations betwixt the present state of the parish and that which existed at the time of the last Statistical Account, exhibit considerable improvement in the state of society. The means of religious instruction and attendance on these means are greatly increased, as appears from the Sabbath collections made for the poor. These have increased about eightfold, or from L.2, 2s. 6½d. to about L.17. The total annual funds for the maintenance of the poor have increased fortyfold, or from L.2, 2s. 6½d. to L.95. The population has increased more than one-third, and the attendance of children at school is fourfold, or from about 80 to 320. The minister's stipend is increased about fourfold, or from L.68, 6s. 8d. to an average of more than L.240, whilst he has less than half the charge.

The arable acres are increased from 1550 to 2400, and the rent from about L.1100 to L.2760. The permanent poor's funds have increased from L.5 to about L.1800.

The parish is susceptible of considerable improvement, by means of planting the hills and moors, improving waste ground, enclosing the fields, and road-making. In this last particular, something has been done within the last ten or twelve years, by opening up a line of internal communication along the banks of the

Avon, and another to the east by Glenlivet. Arrangements are also made by the Duke of Richmond for subdividing and enclosing the farms; and as His Grace evinces a disposition to promote the interests of his tenantry, and improve his extensive domains, it is expected that he will give orders to plant a considerable portion of the waste ground in the parish.

April 1842.

PARISH OF CULLEN.*

PRESBYTERY OF FORDYCE, SYNOD OF ABERDEEN.

THE REV. GEORGE HENDERSON, A. M., MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—THE etymology of the name of this parish, as well as the historical origin of the royal burgh of Cullen, appear to be lost in the mist of antiquity. The legendary accounts prevalent in the parish, and even to be met with in the writings of some of the minor historians, are unworthy of notice. It was originally called *Inverculan*, being bounded on the north and west by the water of Cullen, which falls into the sea at the western extremity of the parish; but it has long borne the name of *Culan*, *Culane*, or *Cullen* only.

Extent and Boundaries.—The ecclesiastical parish consists of two parts, viz. Cullen proper, or Cullen *quoad civilia*, and a portion of the neighbouring parish of Rathven, annexed to it *quoad sacra*. The former, which bears the form of a wedge, extends from north to south, in length about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles, and from east to west, in average breadth, nearly 1 mile, containing 684 imperial acres. The annexation from Rathven is about 3 miles in length, from east to west, and nearly 2 miles in breadth, from north to south. Cullen Proper is bounded on the north, by the Moray Frith; on the south, by Rathven and Deskford; on the east, by Fordyce; and on the west, by Rathven.

Topographical Appearances.—The topographical appearance of this parish presents the richest and most varied landscape of hill

* The following statistics apply only to the parish of Cullen proper, unless where special reference is made to the annexation.

and dale, wood, water, and highly cultivated fields, which is to be seen in the district. Along its shores, the rocks rise in precipitous grandeur, or are thrown up in rugged deformity, to a very considerable height above the level of the sea. In some places, they are perpendicular, or nearly so; in others, they are disrupted, and jut out into the water in fragments. Thence, the land rises by a gentle acclivity, on which the ancient barony of Ogilvie is situated, and which the Noble proprietors have been pleased to distinguish, by assuming its more modern name of Seafield, as their most honoured title. Advancing to the south, the land rises more abruptly, then gradually descends to the extreme boundary of Cullen proper. Here and there, in a gentle undulating manner, it forms itself on the top into knolls or risings. From an elevated spot on Seafield farm, the view is most extensive and delightful. To the north-west, are seen the most prominent buildings of the new town of Cullen, pleasantly situated on the western acclivity of the hill adjacent to the sea, the sandy bay of Cullen, and the bold and precipitous headland of Scarnose, forming the western extremity of the bay, and the most northern point of land on this side the Moray Frith. In the back ground, the distant shores and dark blue mountains of Sutherland and Caithness, on the opposite side of the frith, are distinctly seen; while the wide intervening expanse of sea, bespangled with trading vessels and fishing-boats, adds greatly to the landscape. To the southward, are seen the richly cultivated fields of Cullen proper, and part of the arable lands of the annexation, also in the highest state of luxuriance; the latter bounded by a dense and extensive forest, which imparts to the scene an aspect of the most picturesque beauty. The view in another direction is not less interesting. To the west and south-west, stands the Bin Hill, which is partly within the *quoad sacra* district of the parish, and forms the most conspicuous object in the district. It has two tops, the one considerably higher than the other, and presents to the eye of the spectator looking from the north, very much of the form of the *lion couchant*. Its elevation above the sea is 1076 feet, and it serves as an excellent land-mark to navigators. About seventy years ago, it was planted with trees, which have thriven well, excepting towards the summit, where the severity of the exposure bids defiance to vegetation of any kind, save heath. In the same direction, is seen the stately mansion of Cullen House, with its superb pleasure grounds. In

the back ground, the woods and plantations of the ancient barony of Rannes, in the parish of Rathven, meet the eye; and in the distance, the bleak mountains of Inverness-shire shut up the view.

Meteorology.—From its proximity to the sea, and the quality of its soil, the climate of this parish is cool and bracing. In winter, when the inland districts are covered with frosts and snow, it stands comparatively free from either, particularly the latter. This is to be attributed to the strong influence of the sea breezes, and the thorough draining which a great portion of the land has recently undergone. The season of spring is proverbially early, especially in the grounds around Cullen House, where the cultivation is so high, and the shelter afforded by wood so complete, that the growth of trees and plants may almost be said to be uninterrupted during the whole year. In this parish, no disease is endemick; its inhabitants are, on the whole, more healthy than those in the inland districts; and it is frequently resorted to by invalids, on account of the salubrity of its climate. There are probably few places in Scotland more conducive to health and longevity. The people are not liable to any prevailing distemper. Epidemicks are of very rare occurrence; and when they do visit the district, are generally of a mild character. Many of the inhabitants live to the age of eighty-five and ninety; and lately, two persons, natives of the parish, died, each at the patriarchal age of one hundred years and upwards. The Bin Hill, in the immediate vicinity, and the most prominent object in the district, acts as a never-erring barometer, its summit being invariably covered with mist, previous to rain or moist weather. The prevailing winds are, the north, north-east, and north-west. These are cold, but comparatively harmless to vegetation, except that from the north-west blowing violently, in the end of July and beginning of August, before the white crops have attained maturity; its blighting effects sometimes occasioning considerable loss to the farmer. There is no thermometrical or barometrical table kept in the parish. The average annual fall of rain is $22\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

Hydrography.—The parish is bounded on the west and south by the water of Cullen, which rises in the heights of Deskford, and, proceeding in a northerly direction for a distance of about six miles, enters Cullen parish at its south-eastern boundary. By draining in its course the hollows of Deskford, it receives a considerable accession to its strength, and by the time it has

reached Tochieneal farm, has become a stream of considerable magnitude. Thence taking a north-westerly direction, it supplies the machinery of several works with water-power, and receives some additions in its progress, until it enters the policies of Cullen House, of which it forms a highly ornamental feature. Sweeping the base of the perpendicular rock on which the mansion stands, it flows directly north for nearly a mile, and then enters the bay of Cullen. In the whole of its course, it has a very considerable velocity, and, by the time it has reached Cullen House, has acquired a breadth, within its banks, of twenty feet. The water is clear and pure, and has long been used for the purposes of bleaching, &c. There are no remarkable springs in the parish, with the exception of one at the farm of Tochieneal, which is strongly impregnated with sulphurated hydrogen. Its temperature, February 22, 1842, was 40°. The other fountains, rising within the parish, are all used for culinary and domestic purposes.

Geology and Mineralogy.—This parish exhibits no remarkable geological features. In length and breadth, it reposes on a single bed of stratified quartz, standing at an angle of from 50° to 80°, and which, again, reposes on a thick bed of compact graywacke, in a conformable position. The direction of the strata is from north-east to south-west, the dip being north-west and south-east. Adjacent to the harbour, the greywacke has assumed the slaty structure, and alternates with the quartz. In the flat sandy bay of Cullen, (situated in the *quoad sacra* district of the parish), there are three remarkable masses of insulated rock, called the “Three Kings.”* The first, or most easterly, is formed of quartz, in small angular fragments, which, in some places, are loose, and in others, appear cemented together by a ferruginous paste. The other two are composed of pudding-stone, or old red sandstone, which appears to have been protruded through the surrounding strata. These masses of rock are of considerable height, and of different shapes, and being, moreover, formed of different materials, have a very striking appearance on the flat surface of the plain on which they stand. The old red sandstone appears no-

* The reason assigned for the above name, is the legendary tale, that a Danish, a Scotch, and Norwegian King, met at this spot, in order to settle their feuds by personal combat. Two were to fight, and the third was to be arbiter of the contest. It is said that the Danish King fell, and that the Scotch King came off victorious. History, however, is silent on the subject.

where else within the parish. About half a mile to the westward, two patches of the new red or stratified sandstone, appear reposing, in a horizontal position, on the disrupted edges of the greywacke. The upper or diluvial beds are shingle, clay, &c. Near Tochie-neal Cottage, at the southern boundary of the parish, there is an extensive bed of fine lias clay, containing ammonites, belemnites, and other petrifications common to the lias formation, and which can be traced over a considerable portion of the southern part of the parish. This clay having been by the plough mixed with the vegetable mould, has rendered the soil uncommonly productive. No erratic or rolled blocks have been seen, either in the interior of the parish, or along its shores, different from the rocks *in situ*; nor, with the above-mentioned exception, have any petrifications or veins of metal been ever found.

Botany.—The parish of Cullen, throughout its ecclesiastical extent, possesses a highly interesting and most extensive Flora. With variety of soil and exposure, it comprehends hill and dale, wood, water, and sea coast. It is matter of regret, however, that this interesting field for botanical research has never, to the knowledge of the writer, been examined with that industry and attention which it so well deserves, and seldom indeed at all, save by the passing stranger. Yet, notwithstanding this desideratum, the writer is enabled to notice several plants comparatively rare in the district. Subjoined also are the names of some of the more common, which are particularly remarkable for luxuriance of growth, and beauty of flower. Along the sloping sides of the Bin hill, many alpine plants are to be found, among which may be noticed:

| | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Anemone apennina | Vaccinium vitis-idæa | Rubus chamæmorus. |
| Hyacinthus non-scriptus | myrtillus | |
| Vaccinium oxycoccos | Oxalis acetosella | |

Towards the base of the Bin hill, and in the lower grounds, are found:

| | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Adoxa moschatellina | Circæa alpina | Juniperus communis |
| Alnus glutinosa | Digitalis purpurea | Lamium album |
| Borago officinalis | Geranium pratense | Trientalis Europæa. |
| Campanula latifolia | Iris pseudacorus | |

Along the coast and sea shore are found:

| | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Carex arenaria | Laminaria digitata | Porphyra laciniata |
| Fucus esculentus | Laurentia pinnatifida | Rhodomenia palmata |
| Helianthemum vulgare | Plantago coronopus | Salsola kali. |

The holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) is remarkably abundant in the parish, and apparently indigenous.*

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Historical Events.—It is well known, that the piratical Danes, who long had the mastery of the seas, continued for several centuries to desolate the coasts of Scotland, and to prove a perpetual scourge to the country. Although their incursions and depredations are involved in much obscurity, yet the scattered notices and traditionary accounts handed down to the present time, leave no doubt of their predatory inroads along the shores of the Moray Frith. In Buchanan's History of Scotland it is recorded, that the Danes, after having made an unsuccessful attempt to land on the coast of Buchan, proceeded farther westward, and put ashore at the mouth of the burn or water of Cullen. Thither Indulfus, who then held the sceptre of Scotland, marched at the head of his army to oppose their progress, and a bloody battle ensued between the Scotch and their Danish invaders. The scene of the conflict is denominated by the above historian "a woody valley;" and many tumuli have been dug up throughout this locality, where now are situated the splendid mansion of the Noble family of Seafield, and the beautiful grounds surrounding it. The most deadly arena of the conflict, however, appears to have been a spot a little farther west, on the moor of Rannachie, or Baads of Cullen; and the action which took place here, is known and currently spoken of as "the Battle of the Baads." The place is thickly studded with tumuli in every direction, and these on being opened are always found to contain decayed bones, fragments of arms, &c. Upon this occasion, the Danes were routed, and put to flight; but the brave monarch Indulfus was killed by an arrow, while at the head of his troops pursuing the enemy, anno 960. One division of the Danes, it is said, fled to Mortlach, where there was an encampment of their countrymen; another took the road to Forfar, where they were again defeated; and a few of their scattered number endeavoured to regain their ships. This was a decisive victory gained by the Scotch, and is supposed to be among the last battles fought with

* An accomplished and ingenious friend has suggested the possibility of the name of the parish having been derived from this very circumstance, the name of the holly in the Gaelic language being *Cuilconn*, or, as pronounced by the common people in districts where Gaelic is spoken, *Coulion*—Cullen?

the Danes, previous to their total expulsion from the kingdom, about the year 1014.

There is a very distinct tradition in the parish, the truth of which there seems no cause to dispute, but, on the contrary, strong reason to credit, that Queen Elizabeth, consort of Robert I., died at an occasional residence near to where Cullen House now stands, and that “her bowels are erded, *i. e.* buried, in our Lady Kirk of Cullen.” The circumstance of King Robert having endowed a chaplain to pray for the soul of his consort, Queen Elizabeth, in the church of Cullen, affords strong presumptive evidence in favour of the truth of the tradition. The question naturally suggests itself, What could have brought Queen Elizabeth to Cullen? To this the most probable answer is, that, as she had a daughter married to the then Earl of Sutherland, she had come on a visit to her daughter; and as the family of Sutherland had at that period considerable property in the Boyn and Enzie, that the Queen, at the time of her death, might have been the guest of some of their friends or relatives in that quarter.

The town of Cullen had its share of the troubles to which Scotland was subjected in the days of the Covenanters, having been repeatedly plundered by the Marquis of Montrose, and afterwards burnt. On the 4th March 1645, Montrose, with the body of his army, had stationed himself at the Bog of Gight, “and sent beforehand over Spey the Farquharsons of Brae of Mar, to plunder the town of Cullen, pertaining to the Earl of Findlater, which they did pitifully.” A short time thereafter, “Montrose marches frae the Bog to the place of Cullen of Boyn, the Earl of Findlater having fled south himself before to Edinburgh, leaving in thir dangerous days (pitiful to behold) his lady behind him. This stately house, well decored with stately insight and plenishing, and furnished with silver plate and all other necessities, was pitifully plundered, and nothing tursable left; and then was beginning to raise fire, but the lady pitifully besought Montrose (now in her husband’s absence) to forbear firing of her ground, but for the space of fifteen days, within the whilk time, if her husband came not to give satisfaction, that then his Lordship should do as pleased him best; and for this peace of fifteen days time, she promised twenty thousand merks, whereof she paid in hand five thousand merks. Montrose granted her desire upon the conditions foresaid, and raised no fire on the Earl of Findlater’s grounds (albeit a great Covenanter) at this

time.”* From what has been stated, it might be supposed, that our good town of Cullen would have been spared from farther violence. Such, however, was not the case; for, about the middle of May in the same year, Montrose sent a party of his troops to Cullen, and burnt the whole town to the ground, first plundering and carrying off every thing valuable, then consuming the remainder in one common blaze; and, doubtless, many of the aged, infirm, and helpless, fell victims to the devouring element.

Family of Findlater and Seafield.—This noble and ancient family is descended from Gilchrist, a man of high rank, and a favourite of King Malcolm Canmore, whom that monarch created Earl of Angus. He lived after the year 1120, and was among the first in Scotland upon whom the title of Earl was conferred. His son, Gilbrede, the second Earl of Angus, was a great warrior, and lived in the reigns of David I., Malcolm IV., and William the Lion. He had six sons, of whom Gilbert, the third, was ancestor of the present family of Seafield. He was a man of great abilities; and, agreeably to the custom of these early times, assumed his name from his lands of Ogilvie, viz. Gilbert de Ogilvie. †

Sir Walter Ogilvie of Auchleven, the eighth in direct lineal descent from the aforesaid Gilbert de Ogilvie, and second son of Sir Walter Ogilvie of Lintrethan, Lord High Treasurer of Scotland in 1425, married, in 1437, Margaret, daughter and heiress of Sir John Sinclair of Deskford and Findlater, who was killed at the battle of Harlaw, in 1411. The baronies thus acquired by Sir Walter Ogilvie of Auchleven became the chief titles of his family; and, in accordance with ancient usage in such cases, he quartered the arms of Sinclair of Deskford with his paternal coat of Ogilvie. In 1440, he obtained two charters, under the Great Seal, of the lands and baronies of Deskford, Findlater, &c. Sir Walter Ogilvie of Deskford and Findlater, the sixth in direct lineal descent from

* Spalding's History.

† The following is the reason, assigned by some historians, for Gilbert changing his name to that of Ogilvie:—The Gilchrists having unfortunately incurred the resentment of their sovereign, were, in consequence, long subjected to the loss of the royal favour. The king one day, in taking the diversion of hunting, imprudently separated himself from his retinue, and was attacked by a band of robbers. At that critical moment the Gilchrists made their appearance, and, having dispersed the robbers, had the good fortune to rescue the king; upon which, the differences formerly existing between them were immediately made up; the king intimating to them, that he would grant them, without reserve, whatever favour they chose to ask; but adding, at the same time, a condition, that, for the future, they should hold and bear the name of Ogilvie; as the monarch in his wrath had previously sworn, that no man, within his kingdom, should be suffered to live, and bear the name of Gilchrist.

the aforesaid Sir Walter Ogilvie of Auchleven, was a man of great abilities, and a favourite of James VI., by whom he was raised to the dignity of the Peerage, and created Lord Ogilvie of Deskford, October 4, 1616. His son and heir, James, second Lord Ogilvie, was created Earl of Findlater by Charles I., 20th February 1638, by patent to the heirs-male of his body; but, having no male issue, he obtained a new patent, 18th October 1641, in favour of Sir Patrick Ogilvie of Inchmartin, who had married his eldest daughter, Elizabeth. This St Patrick became second Earl of Findlater, and died 1658, leaving an only son, James, third Earl, who died 1711, and was succeeded by his son James, fourth Earl, K. T., the celebrated lawyer and statesman, who, during his father's lifetime, was created, 28th June 1698, Viscount Seafield, and, 24th June 1701, Earl of Seafield, Viscount of Reidhaven, with remainder, on failure of male issue of his body, to his other heirs of entail. He died 1730, and was succeeded by his son and heir, James, fifth Earl of Findlater, and second Earl of Seafield, who died 1764, leaving the following issue, viz. a son, James, by whom he was succeeded, and two daughters, Margaret and Ann, the former married to Sir Ludovick Grant of Grant, Bart., the latter to John second Earl of Hopetoun. James the sixth Earl of Findlater, and third Earl of Seafield, died 1770, and was succeeded by his son and heir, James, seventh Earl of Findlater, and fourth Earl of Seafield; on whose death, without issue, 1811, the Earldom of Findlater, which was limited to the heirs-male of the body of the first Earl, became extinct; but the Earldom of Seafield, and the other titles created by the patent of 1701, together with the whole of the family estates, devolved on his cousin, Sir Lewis Alexander Grant of Grant, Bart., son of Sir James Grant of Grant, Bart., and grandson of Sir Ludovick Grant of Grant, Bart., and his wife, Margaret, elder daughter of James, fifth Earl of Findlater, and second Earl of Seafield. Sir Lewis Alexander Grant, fifth Earl of Seafield, assumed the name of Ogilvie, and died 1840, without issue. He was succeeded by his brother, the Honourable Francis William Grant, the sixth and present Earl of Seafield, who has male issue.

The house of Seafield is lineally connected with the following noble families: Aberdeen, Airly, Athol, Banff, Buchan, Caithness, Eglinton, Elphinstone, Fife, Glencairn, Gray, Hamilton, Hopetoun, Huntly, Kinnoul, Lauderdale, Lovat, Morton, Oliphant, Rothes, Saltoun. *Chief seats*: Cullen House, Banffshire;

Castle Grant and Balimacaaan, Inverness-shire; Grant Lodge, Morayshire.

Eminent Characters.—Under this head, the name of James fourth Earl of Findlater and first Earl of Seafield, claims a special notice. This distinguished statesman and eminent lawyer was born in 1664. In 1689, he was chosen member of the Convention of Estates for the burgh of Cullen, in which capacity he obtained much celebrity, by a remarkable speech in favour of King James VII., and by being one of the five members who dissented from the act for forfeiting that monarch. Contrary to what might have been expected, his firmness and fidelity to his former sovereign had not the effect of injuring him in the eyes of James's successor; for, after the government was settled in favour of William, he became a special favourite of his Majesty. In 1693, being an eminent lawyer, he was appointed Solicitor for the Crown, Sheriff of Banff, and, at the same time, received the honour of knighthood. In 1695, he was appointed Secretary of State. In 1698 he was appointed President of the Parliament, and was, at the same time, created Viscount Seafield. In 1700, he held the office of his Majesty's Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, and was thrice afterwards preferred to the same dignity, viz. in 1703, 1724, and 1727. In 1701, he was created Earl of Seafield. He continued Secretary of State during all King William's reign; and, upon the accession of Queen Anne, he filled the same department, until November 1702, when he was appointed Chancellor. In 1703, he was created a Knight of the Thistle. In 1704, he was again appointed Secretary of State, and likewise presided in Parliament. In the same year, he was appointed Chancellor for the second time, in which office he continued until the Union was completed, having been first Commissioner for Scotland at the treaty of Union, and presided in the Scottish Parliament which ratified it.* After the Union, he was

* It is a somewhat remarkable circumstance, that, although his Lordship was mainly instrumental in promoting the Union, it was, nevertheless, in imminent danger of being dissolved, several years after the act was passed, through the instrumentality of the same individual. When the Malt-Tax was extended to Scotland, his Lordship was so irritated at the measure, considering it an infringement of the articles of Union, that, in the House of Lords, 1st June 1713, he laid open the grievances of the Scottish nation, which he reduced to four heads, viz. 1. The being deprived of a Privy-Council; 2. The extension of the treason laws of England to Scotland; 3. The Peers of Scotland being incapacitated from being created Peers of Great Britain; and, 4. The Scots being subjected to the Malt Tax, which would be the more insupportable to them now, in that they never bore it during the war, and had reason to expect the benefits of a peace,—concluding, that, since the Union had not been productive of those good effects which were expected, he moved, that leave be given

appointed Chief Baron of the Court of Exchequer in Scotland, and a member of the Privy-Council. He was chosen one of the sixteen Peers in the first British Parliament, and was repeatedly re-elected to the same honour. In 1713, he was again appointed Chancellor, and Keeper of the Great Seal in Scotland; and during all the periods in which he held the office of Chancellor, he presided in the Court of Session. As a Senator of the College of Justice, he is recorded to have displayed consummate eloquence, great legal abilities, and a peculiar talent of dispatch in business. His Lordship died in 1730, in the sixty-sixth year of his age.

There have been few men, to whom his country has been so deeply indebted, considered in the character of a peaceful patriot, as to James sixth Earl of Findlater and third Earl of Seafield, born 1714. To that distinguished individual, appertained the exclusive merit, of introducing into the north of Scotland, those improvements in agriculture,* manufactures, and all kinds of useful

to bring in a bill for dissolving it, and securing the Protestant succession in the House of Hanover, preserving the Queen's prerogative in both kingdoms, and an entire amity and good correspondence betwixt England and Scotland. His Lordship's motion was put to the vote: 108 Peers were in the House, who were equally divided, viz. 54 for the motion, and 54 against it; 13 proxies voted for and 17 against the motion, leaving a majority of only 4 out of 138,—so narrowly did the Union escape a fatal blow from the hands of the individual who had been so instrumental in promoting it.

* The following may serve as a specimen of the important services, rendered by his Lordship, to the cause of agriculture in Banffshire. "The agriculture of this country stood in the most forlorn state, till about the year 1754, when the late Earl of Findlater, then Lord Deskford, to whose unremitting exertions are to be ascribed the introduction of improvements in agriculture, as well as manufactures, in this country, came to reside in the neighbourhood of Banff; and, having taken one of his farms into his own possession, set about cultivating it in the most approved manner then known in England; and for that purpose engaged, one after another, three of the most experienced overseers from that kingdom, and, in a few years, improved the farms of Craigherbs, in the parish of Boyndie, and Colleenard, in the parish of Banff, as well as the fields about his princely seat of Cullen House, in a style and manner then unknown in this part of the country. But his Lordship was sensible, that, however successful he might be in the cultivation of farms in his own possession, it was not probable, that this success would operate so powerfully on the minds of his tenants, as to induce them, without some substantial reasons, to venture on untried experiments, or to leave the beaten paths in which they and their fathers had trod for ages. He therefore formed and executed a plan, which did great credit to his judgment, and which has had the good effect of awakening that spirit of improvement which has now become general over the district, at least among the proprietors and more respectable farmers. His Lordship selected some of the most intelligent, active, and substantial tenants in the country, to whom he granted leases on reasonable terms, for two nineteen years and a lifetime, of farms formerly occupied by three or four tenants. By these leases, the tenant became bound under a penalty, which was inserted in the lease, to enclose and subdivide a certain portion of the farm with stone fences, or ditch and hedge, during the first nineteen years of the lease, and in the course of the second nineteen years, to enclose the remainder. They were also bound to summer fallow, and sow grass-seeds on a certain number of acres, within the first five years of the lease. His Lordship had also the merit of being the first to introduce the turnip-husbandry, and, by his example, as well as precept, during his frequent excursions among his tenants, was the means of bringing the cultivation of that

industry, which, in the space of a few years, raised his country from a state of semi-barbarism to a degree of civilization, equal to that of the most improved districts of the south. His Lordship completed an excellent education by foreign travel, which eminently qualified him for the distinguished part he was destined to act in the field of philanthropy. In 1754, he was appointed one of the Commissioners of Customs in Scotland; and in 1765, was constituted one of the Lords of Police. He was one of the trustees for the improvement of fisheries and manufactures, and for the management of the forfeited estates in Scotland; and attended to the business of these boards with the most exemplary zeal and assiduity. Enthusiastic in his desire to benefit his native land, the prime object of his ambition, he conversed much with and greatly honoured men of letters and persons of ingenuity in every profession, always endeavouring to convert whatever knowledge he by such means acquired, to the improvement of his country. In these truly patriotic pursuits, he succeeded to an extent altogether unparalleled in the annals of industrial improvements; and his name is still a household word over the north of Scotland, being regarded as that of a man who, in his day and generation, proved

crop, as well as other green crops, by degrees, into general practice. Although his Lordship well knew the baneful effects of exacting services from his tenants, he had them bound, in proportion to the size of their respective farms, to send their sons or servants, a certain number of days, to assist in the hand-hoeing of his own turnips, for the express purpose of teaching them to do this work, in a proper manner, on the other farms of his estate. So averse were the men, at that time, to this kind of work, that they expected to get free from it, by giving the overseer cause to complain, that they were doing it in a slovenly manner. His Lordship, however, was not to be deceived or disappointed in his favourite scheme, and immediately directed, that, until they could do a sufficient day's work in a proper manner, they must make it up, by serving more days than was stipulated for. By this means, it will easily be imagined, his Lordship gained his much-wished for object, and the business of turnip-hoeing was, in a few years, very well performed all over his estate.

"It is not to be expected, that any general improvement in the modes of agriculture can be introduced all at once, or that the inhabitants of a country will, on a sudden, give up their old habits and ways of thinking. They must be induced to do so, either from the advantage which they are satisfied they will derive, in consequence of making new arrangements with the proprietors, or from a conviction in their own minds, that the experiments of their more adventurous neighbours have proved successful and advantageous; and, therefore, in this new state of things, it was no wonder, notwithstanding Lord Findlater's unwearied exertions, that many years elapsed, before fallow, sowing grass and turnip, and other green crops, came into general practice, even in that quarter of his estate, which may be said to have had the advantage of his personal superintendence. But the tenants being at last satisfied, that the improvements introduced by his Lordship were such as, if adopted by them, would promote their interest, they set about making experiments, which having, in every instance, exceeded expectation, the spirit of improvement began to gain ground, and, as a natural consequence, his Lordship's example was followed by the other proprietors, and by many of the more intelligent farmers in other parts of the country. In a short period, the system of agriculture, the circumstances of the tenants, and the general appearance of the country, became greatly changed."—Original Report of the Agriculture of Banffshire, with some alterations.

himself one of the most substantial benefactors of his species. His Lordship died at Cullen House, 3d November 1770, in the fifty-sixth year of his age.

Sir James Clark, Bart., First Physician to Her Majesty, is a native of this parish; and, at the parochial school of the neighbouring parish of Fordyce, received the elements of that education, which, by successful cultivation, has deservedly raised him to the highest professional eminence. Although he has been long absent from the place of his nativity, he has uniformly evinced a lively interest in its welfare, by frequent and substantial acts of beneficence; and to his friendship, not a few of his countrymen have been mainly indebted, for their prosperity in life.

Land-owner.—The Earl of Seafield is proprietor of the whole parish, with the exception of nine and a half Scotch acres, mortified for charitable and educational purposes. There are few parishes in Scotland so fortunate in their proprietary as Cullen. His Lordship, who resides chiefly at Cullen House, deservedly sustains the character of a patriot and philanthropist, in the true and proper meaning of the terms; evincing the most lively interest in the improvements not only of the lands in his own natural possession, but in every part of his princely estates, and stimulating the exertions of his tenantry, by the most liberal yet judicious encouragement.

Parochial Registers.—These have been well preserved, and are in good order. With the exception of a hiatus of eight years, viz. from 1762 to 1770, the records of the kirk-session contain an uninterrupted history of its proceedings, from 1640 down to the present time. The register of baptisms and marriages commences in 1682, and is quite complete from that date.

Antiquities.—On the eastern bank of the water of Cullen, and overhanging the Sea-town, an eminence, called the Castle hill, rises in a conical form, to the height of upwards of 200 feet above the level of the sea. In remote ages, it appears to have been crowned with a vitrified castle or fort, which had been guarded by a triple wall and ditch. These have long since been demolished, but traces of them are yet distinctly visible. This castle, like many others along the coast, has been the subject of much speculation among antiquaries and historians. They appear to have been, in general, situated upon promontories, mountains, and other lofty eminences. Their massive walls were cemented with vitrid matter, (instead of lime), which is alleged to have been produced by a powerful heat and flux, (perhaps kelp), and which, falling

into the crevices of the building, so effectually united the whole, that the remains of the cement, which are occasionally to be found, appear to be almost as strong as the solid rock. These fortresses appear to have been occupied by the chiefs and proprietors of the adjacent soil, as places of safety, in those barbarous and unsettled times, which rendered such erections necessary. It is traditionally reported, that this castle was originally the residence of the proprietors of Cullen and the adjacent grounds; and if such were the case, it is not improbable that the Queen of Robert de Bruce may have died in it. A farther tradition respecting it (there being no record whatever) is, that it was a military fortress, occupied by the Scottish forces about the time of the invasion of the Danes, and when an enemy appeared, the inhabitants of Cullen carried their most valuable articles into the castle for safety. Before the use of cannon, the Castle-hill was extremely well situated for warlike operations, being inaccessible from the north by an almost perpendicular rock of 170 feet in height.

Ecclesiastical History and Antiquities.—The present parish church was originally dedicated to St Mary, and is of considerable antiquity. The following is an excerpt from an unpublished manuscript, entitled, “A view of the Diocese of Aberdeen:” “Church of Saint Mary of Cullen. This church was founded by Robert I., and it is said that the bowels of his Queen Elizabeth are buried here. This church had a provost, six prebends, and two singing boys, founded by Alexander Ogilvie of that ilk, predecessor of the Earl of Findlater, Mr Alexander Dick, Archbishop of Glasgow, John Duff of Muldavit, ancestor of Lord Fife, with all the magistrates of Cullen, an. 1543. This foundation was confirmed by William Bishop of Aberdeen, the same year, and by John Archbishop of St Andrews, *legat a latere*, 1552. Each of the clergy was to have twenty merks yearly in lands and money, together with an apartment and garden. For this end, they had several crofts allotted to them, in the town, together with the vicarage of Rathven, with all the privileges belonging to the burghers of Cullen.” Agreeably to the above statement regarding the foundation of the church of Cullen, it appears from the charter of the burgh, that “Robert of Bruce, King of the Scotch, granted and gave in gift for ever, L. 5 of the money of the kingdom, (*i. e.* 8s. 4d. Sterling,) for the support of a chaplain in the parish church of the blessed Mary, of our burgh of Cullen, always to pray for

the soul of the most serene Princess Queen Elizabeth, consort of the same King Robert."

Monuments.—The church of Cullen, having been, for many ages, the burying-place of the Findlater and Seafield family, contains several ancient monuments of a very elegant description. The chief of these is a monument (1554) to the memory of Alexander Ogilvie, Baron of Findlater, and his wife, Elizabeth Gordon, which, in point of Gothic excellence and grandeur of design, is perhaps inferior to none in Europe of a corresponding age.* A superb monument to the memory of John Duff of Muldavatt, representing the figure of an armed warrior recumbent, was removed in 1790, along with the supposed ashes of the deceased, from the family burying-place in the church of Cullen, and deposited in the mausoleum in Duff House Park. The aforesaid John Duff, who had his residence near to where the present mansion of Cullen House stands, on the opposite side of the water of Cullen, was a reputed ancestor of the Fife family, and died in 1404. In the southern aisle of the church, are some curious foundation inscriptions, well worthy the attention of the antiquary.

Cullen House.—Cullen House, the principal residence of the Earl of Seafield, is situated in the parish of Cullen proper, at the distance of six furlongs from the town. It is an ancient and stately structure, consisting of several irregular masses of unadorned building, erected at different periods, the oldest of which is, in all probability, coeval with the erection of the present parish church, (in the fourteenth century,) to which it appears to have been originally attached as a monastic edifice. It contains many magnifi-

* This monument is thus described in Cordiner's *Antiquities of North Britain* :—
 "The splendid enrichments that crown the pyramidal column, have a very elegant and beautiful effect. The bas-reliefs are well raised, and minutely finished. The figures of the entombed, in devotional attitudes, are well rounded and correctly drawn. The sculptures of the central and interior part, according to the ideas of early ages, have most learned and sublime allusion. Two angels guarding an altar-piece, on which the virtues of the deceased are inscribed, seem to call the dead, represented by a skeleton laid under the altar, to appear before the tribunal of the Most High, expressed by a hieroglyphic above. 'The Ancient of Days sat on the clouds of Heaven, and they came near before him to judgment,' was the bold imagery by which the prophet Daniel pointed out the things that must be hereafter. The well-known symbol here on the tomb of THIS ONE, upholding the globe in his arm, implies the Intellectual Power and Wisdom which is the origin and support of Creation. The attitude of Benediction and the Triple Crown, though seemingly of more modern allusion, yet, in the Egyptian wisdom, refer to the Three Great Attributes of Deity, and the Supreme pronouncing a blessing on his works. The pillars of Heaven, expressed by columns supporting an arch, rest on the cloud, and a circumambient vine. From that arch, diverging rays are spread, in which a Dove is descending, and they beam on the Cross that rises over the Globe, the most ancient and venerable symbols of the Universal Benignity of the Uncreated Light of the World, manifesting the Divine Favour to Man."

cent apartments, furnished in the first style of elegance. It is picturesquely elevated on a perpendicular rock, along the southern base of which, the water of Cullen, which animates the beautiful landscape, passes here within a hollow rocky channel, sixty-four feet deep beneath the mansion walls. Over this current, a handsome single-arched stone bridge, of eighty-four feet span, connects the woods, parks, gardens, and pleasure-grounds with the mansion. The plantations, within the umbrageous recesses of which the mansion is embowered, consist of a great variety of valuable wood, beneath the shady foliage of which, an excellent carriage-road, besides many delightful serpentine footpaths, winds by easy acclivities to the summit of the Bin hill, whence there is an extensive view of the surrounding country and opposite coast. The pleasure-grounds are upwards of ten square miles in extent, and present to the eye a range of scenery, which, for richness, variety, and picturesque beauty, is not surpassed by any policy in Scotland. Here nature has done much, and the embellishments of art, have been liberally bestowed from time to time, by the Noble proprietors, especially by the present Earl, whose accurate and refined taste has been most successfully exercised, in adding to the attractions of this magnificent residence. In Cullen House, there is an elegant and extensive library, consisting of many thousand volumes in the several departments of literature and science; and the walls of the principal apartments are adorned with a great variety of valuable paintings, many of them by the first masters. The gardens, vinerias, &c. are upon a scale of grandeur, corresponding to the dignity and opulence of the Noble proprietor, and for beauty of arrangement and luxuriance in the growth of rare and costly plants and fruits, are unrivalled in the north of Scotland.

Modern Buildings.—The only modern building deserving of notice is the Cullen Hotel, attached to which, and under the same roof, but with a separate entrance, are three public rooms, viz. an elegant ball-room, $43\frac{1}{2}$ feet in length, and 23 in breadth; a commodious court-room, in which are held the sheriff and justice of peace courts; and the council-room of the burgh, a handsome apartment of a circular form, $23\frac{1}{6}$ feet in diameter and 16 feet in height. The entire building was erected in 1822, at the expense of the Right Honourable the Earl of Seafield, and cost L. 3000. It is situated at the public square, and adds much to the appearance of the town.

III.—POPULATION.

In 1791, the population was 1214

| | | | |
|-------|---|---|------|
| 1801, | . | . | 1076 |
| 1811, | . | . | 1070 |
| 1821, | . | . | 1452 |
| 1831, | . | . | 1593 |
| 1841, | . | . | 1564 |

The following is an abstract Parliamentary census of the ecclesiastical parish taken in 1841 :—

| | Houses un-
inhabit. | Houses
inhabit. | No. of
families. | No. of
males. | No. of
females. | Total no.
of persons. |
|--|------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Parish of Cullen proper, viz. | | | | | | |
| Town of Cullen, . | 8 | 169 | 186 | 332 | 380 | 712 |
| Seatown of Ditto, . | 3 | 167 | 176 | 313 | 397 | 710 |
| Rural district, . | ... | 29 | 29 | 66 | 76 | 142 |
| | <hr/> 11 | <hr/> 365 | <hr/> 391 | <hr/> 711 | <hr/> 853 | <hr/> 1564 |
| Part of the parish of Rathven
annexed <i>quoad sacra</i> to Cul-
len, viz. | | | | | | |
| Village of Portknockie, . | 8 | 162 | 166 | 337 | 398 | 725 |
| Rural district, . | 1 | 65 | 65 | 170 | 163 | 333 |
| | <hr/> 9 | <hr/> 227 | <hr/> 231 | <hr/> 507 | <hr/> 551 | <hr/> 1058 |

Total amount of the population of the ecclesiastical parish, . . . 2622

The following statistics apply to the ecclesiastical parish, consisting of Cullen proper, and the annexation from Rathven *quoad sacra* :

| | | | |
|---|---|---|----|
| Yearly average of legitimate births for the last seven years, | . | . | 82 |
| illegitimate, | . | - | 3 |
| Yearly average of marriages for the last seven years, | - | - | 20 |
| Average number of children by each marriage, a fraction less than persons in each family, | - | - | 3½ |
| Number of insane, | - | - | 2 |
| fatuous, | - | - | 5 |
| blind, | - | - | 2 |
| deaf and dumb, | - | - | 1 |

The following is an accurate classification of the population of Cullen proper, with respect to professional employment, &c.

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|----|----------------------------------|----|
| Apothecary, | 1 | Crofters, | 40 |
| Bachelors above 50 years of age, | 11 | Dressmakers and seamstresses, | 28 |
| Banker, | 1 | Farmers of upwards of £50 yearly | |
| Bakers, | 6 | rent, | 4 |
| Blacksmiths, | 12 | Feuars, | 58 |
| Boat-builders, | 22 | Fishermen, | 60 |
| Brewers, | 4 | Flesher, | 1 |
| Carters, | 10 | Gamekeepers, | 2 |
| Clergyman, | 1 | Gardeners, | 12 |
| Clerks, | 3 | Innkeepers, | 2 |
| Commander, R. N. | 1 | Justices of peace, | 7 |
| Coopers, | 3 | Female day-labourers, | 34 |

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|----|--------------------------------|----|
| Male day-labourers, | 97 | Male domestic servants, | 16 |
| Masons, | 17 | Female farm servants, | 5 |
| Medical practitioners, | 2 | Male farm servants, | 34 |
| Coal-merchants, | 2 | Ship-owners, | 3 |
| Meal-merchants, | 9 | Shoemakers, | 27 |
| Merchants or shopkeepers, | 19 | Slaters, | 3 |
| Millers, | 2 | Solicitor-at-law, | 1 |
| Nailer, | 1 | Tailors, | 17 |
| Officers of excise, | 3 | Female teachers, | 6 |
| Officer of fishery, | 1 | Male do. | 2 |
| Sheriff-officers, | 3 | Tinsmiths, | 4 |
| Peer, | 1 | Toll-keeper, | 1 |
| Pensioners, | 10 | Watch-makers, | 2 |
| Plasterers, | 2 | Weavers, | 5 |
| Postmaster, | 1 | Widowers, | 27 |
| Publicans, | 3 | Widows, | 84 |
| Resident landed proprietor, | 1 | Women unmarried above 45 years | 37 |
| Rope-makers, | 4 | of age, | 10 |
| Saddlers, | 3 | Cart-wrights, | 25 |
| Sail-maker, | 1 | Square-wrights, | 1 |
| Sawyers, | 32 | Wheel-wright, | |
| Female domestic servants, | 70 | | |

Character and Condition of the People.—The parishioners may be characterized as in general, intelligent, moral, peaceable, and industrious; possessing much natural affection, warm-hearted, and benevolent towards their poorer brethren, plain and unaffected in their manners, frank and sincere in their intercourse with others, obliging and neighbourly among themselves. They are possessed of a due share of the proverbial shrewdness of the north. Divine ordinances are greatly respected; the Sabbath is devoutly observed; and there are few parishes in which the people are so unanimous in their attachment to the national church. There being, at all times, abundance of employment in the various departments of industry and good wages, the labouring classes enjoy a competent share of the comforts of life, and, from the ample provision made for the wants of the poor, abject poverty may be said to be a stranger to the parish. Like Scotchmen in general, the parishioners are strongly attached to the place of their nativity. Not a few of the present generation, who, in their youth, friendless and penniless, left the parish to push their way in the world, have realized handsome fortunes.

In consequence of the fluctuations to which his calling is liable, it is impossible to calculate precisely a fisherman's annual gains; but judging from personal observation, and the best information, the writer has no hesitation in stating it as his decided conviction, that there are comparatively few of the working classes in Scotland, whose labours are so amply remunerated, as those of the fishermen on this coast; and that with ordinary economy, every

family among them may enjoy in abundance the comforts of life. The almost invariable habit which prevails, of intermarrying with those of their own craft, and the no less general practice which obtains, of every fisherman's son following his father's occupation, prove very serious drawbacks to the progress of this order of the community in the march of improvement; having the effect of rendering them a distinct class of society, with sentiments, sympathies, and habits peculiar to themselves. Until some amalgamation shall take place between them and their brethren of *terra firma*, their advancement in the improvements of civilized life must necessarily be slow and partial.

Habits and Amusements.—There is no marked peculiarity in the habits of the people, as regards language, dress, or mode of living. The names more peculiar to the parish, and of oldest standing are, Anderson, Coul, Davidson, Finlay, Forsyth, Gardiner, Hay, Ogilvie, Runcie, Simpson, Strahan, and Wright. In consequence of the frequent identity of Christian and surnames among the fishing population, caused by intermarriages, certain extra names are used to distinguish individuals. Thus, there are several heads of families of the respective names of Alexander Addison, James Addison, and William Addison, who are thus distinguished, viz. Alexander Addison, *Saunders*; Alexander Addison, *Kitty's Saunie*; Alexander Addison, *Droddie*; James Addison, *Kitty's Jamesy*; James Addison, *Tatie fiddler*; James Addison, *Bubblie*; William Addison, *Sheepie*; William Addison, *Boatie-row*; William Addison, *Calkinapin*; William Addison, *May's Wilsie*. Snuffing and smoking are almost universal among the labouring classes. Smuggling, which at one time prevailed so extensively in the district, owing to the facilities which its proximity to the sea afforded for the traffic in foreign contraband goods, is now altogether unknown; and from the vigilance exercised for the preservation of game, poaching may be considered as in a great measure impracticable.

In former times, at Halloween, Christmas, and other holidays, when our manufactories were in their most flourishing state, the younger part of the community resorted to the sands and links of the bay of Cullen, for the purpose of playing foot-ball, running foot races, throwing the hammer, playing bowls, &c. They left the town in procession, preceded by a piper and other music, and were attended by numbers from the adjacent districts. The games

were keenly contested, and the victor was crowned by a bonnet adorned with feathers and ribbons, previously prepared by the ladies. When the games were over, the whole parties had a dance on the green, with that meriment and glee, to which the etiquette and formation of the ball-room at the present day are total strangers. Thereafter, the procession was again formed, and returned to the town, the victor preceded by the music, leading the way. A ball took place in the evening, at which he presided, and, moreover, had the privilege of wearing his bonnet and feathers. The bowls were played by rolling or throwing a cannon ball, and he who could with fewest strokes put it beyond a mark at the farther end of the links, was declared the victor. But a man having on one occasion been accidentally killed by the ball, this athletic game was forbidden by the magistrates, and has never since been revived. Now-a-days, the parishioners are in the occasional habit of amusing themselves with the games of golf, shinty, foot-ball, and target-shooting, for which the links of Cullen afford excellent play-ground. Christmas and New-year's day, O. S., are universally observed by the labouring classes; on which occasions, there is an entire cessation from business, all appearing in holiday dress, and every *muckle pat* containing something extra. The ancient festivities of harvest-home, halloween, and brose-day are still kept up in the parish. The people of Cullen have long been noted for their musical talents, and continue to sustain their character in this respect. The average weekly delivery of newspapers, from the post-office, to the inhabitants of Cullen proper, is 120; besides which, a variety of magazines and periodicals are regularly received.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.—The whole extent of the parish, (exclusive of the ground occupied by the sites of the New town and Sea town, amounting in all to 34 acres), is about 650 imperial acres, of which 115 are waste pasturage and moor. Of the remaining 535 acres, 110 form part of the extensive park of Cullen House, 200 arable are let to the inhabitants of Cullen, and 225, also arable, are rented by the occupiers of the farms of Seafield, Tochieneal, and Shirrals, which extend into the adjoining parishes of Fordyce and Rathven. The waste ground and pasturage consist partly of steep rocky pasture, along the sea-shore, not susceptible of cultivation, and forming part of a sheep range, (held by the tenant of Seafield), which is connected with similar pasture in the parish of

Fordyce. The moorish waste ground, also on the farm of Seafield, is thin and rocky, standing high and exposed to the cold north winds. Little or none of it could be converted into arable land, unless at an expense which would render the undertaking unprofitable.

Of the ground included in the Cullen House Park, about 30 acres are under wood, the greater part of which was planted within the last thirty years by the present Earl of Seafield. These plantations consist chiefly of oak, ash, beech, elm, plane, maple, birch, lime, horse-chestnut, sweet chestnut, mountain-ash, and larch; and, with the exception of a small part exposed to the northern blasts, are all thriving with a luxuriance, which is not exceeded by any plantations in the north of Scotland, or perhaps in the island. Many of the elms planted about 100 years ago have attained the height of 97 feet, and measure from 10 to 12 feet in circumference, at 10 feet from the ground. Among the forest trees are interspersed a great variety of ornamental shrubs, which appear in great beauty. Many of the trees of older date are of large size, and contrast finely with those recently planted. An aged elm, overhanging a rocky bank of the water of Cullen above Cullen House, measures 16 feet in circumference, at 12 feet from the ground, and standing alone with wide spreading boughs, forms a beautiful feature in the landscape. Several ash trees in the park measure from 8 to 12 feet in circumference, at 12 feet from the ground, and have attained a height of 100 feet. Some of the old larch and lime trees are also of great size and beauty; and there is a cedar which has attained a growth, believed to be uncommon in the north of Scotland, measuring 6 feet in circumference, at 16 feet from the ground. As the plantations about Cullen House have been laid out chiefly for ornament and shelter, they are perhaps not so much thinned and pruned as might be proper, were the increase of the value of the timber the sole object in view. That part of the Cullen House Park not under wood, is, for the most part, kept in pasture, and produces grass of the richest quality; the soil being uncommonly fine, and having all been in cultivation from time immemorial, before being added to the park.

The arable lands let to the inhabitants of Cullen are laid off in small lots. Few persons are in possession of more than what is requisite for the keep of a cow. The rents of these lots vary from L.1, 3s. 9d. to L.3, 11s. 4d. per imperial acre. Of the whole arable land let in the parish, the average rent is L.1, 16s. per im-

perial acre. The rents of the small lots, occupied by the town's people, are higher than could be obtained for land in a different locality, and let in farms; but land such as that in this parish would be valuable in any situation, being for the most part a rich deep loam of fine quality, a description which, with slight exceptions, is applicable to the other arable lands of the parish. In the more elevated parts, the soil is incumbent on gravel. Here it is comparatively thin, but sharp and productive. The greater part, however, has a subsoil of clay, which, in some places, renders the land wet, where the evil has not been remedied by drainage. A small portion of the arable land towards the south end of the parish, occupied by the town's people, is a poor stiff clay soil; and part of the farm of Seafield, on the high grounds adjoining the moor, chiefly ground which has been reclaimed from waste, is extremely light and thin. But, with these exceptions, the arable land of the parish is of very superior quality, and the climate being good, it produces abundant crops of wheat, barley, oats, potatoes, and turnips; and it is particularly noted for yielding fine grass. The large quantity of fish offals, procured as manure from the fishing village of Cullen, and the other fishing stations in the neighbourhood, tends much to the fertility of this and several adjoining parishes. The inhabitants of Cullen generally follow a short rotation of crops, with a view to having a considerable portion of their lands in green crops, for the keep of their cows. On the farms five and six shift courses are the rotations adopted.

The only cattle kept by the town's people are cows. These are, for the most part, of the common breed of Banffshire, and are selected chiefly with a view to their qualities as milchers. The breed of cattle on the farms is a cross between the Banffshire and Teeswater breeds. This cross was introduced into the parish about thirteen years ago, and has been attended with advantage to the farmers, more particularly of late years, since the shipping of cattle from the neighbouring port of Banff, for London and other places in the south, has given encouragement for high feeding; these crosses being found to take on fat more quickly, and to arrive earlier at maturity than the old breed of the county, although not so well fitted for the former state of the markets, when the cattle were sold to drovers, and had to perform a long overland journey to the southern fairs. The sheep kept on the pasture of Seafield farm are of the Cheviot breed, but the range for them is considered too small, to admit of their being turned to great ad-

vantage. They are, however, the only description of stock suitable for the ground, its steepness rendering it in many places unsafe for cattle. The practice of feeding off sheep on turnips, has not yet been introduced into the parish.

No leases are given on the lands occupied by the town's people. The farms are let for a period of nineteen years, being the ordinary duration of leases on the Seafield estate. The only farm-buildings situated within the parish are those at Seafield. They are of a commodious and substantial description, and comprehend a thrashing-mill of five-horse power, wrought by steam,—the only thrashing-machine of the kind in the county. There are few permanent enclosures in the parish; but a considerable proportion of the grass lands on the farms is generally enclosed with wooden palings, which are obtained at a moderate cost, from the Earl of Seafield's extensive plantations in the immediate neighbourhood. The ordinary ploughs used in the parish are iron ones, of a good construction, made by the tradesmen of Cullen. Larger ploughs, with teams of four horses, are generally used by the farmers, for giving a deep furrow to land intended for green crop and fallow; and Mr Smith's (of Deanston) subsoil plough has been used on all the farms.

Upon the whole, this parish may be said to be in an advanced state, as regards agricultural management. Much has been done to the drainage of the wet lands, in the old mode of draining; and of late years, the Deanston system of thorough draining has been actively commenced. Stones are used where accessible; and in the southern part of the parish, where they cannot be procured, but at a great expense, tiles have been lately introduced. A tile-work for the manufacture of drain tiles was erected last year, on the border of the parish, by the tenant of Tochieneal farm, John Wilson, Esq. This gentleman has also brought from Stirlingshire, one of Mr M'Ewan's lately invented drain-ploughs, an implement which, with a team of sixteen oxen, has performed the operation of casting drains for tiles in a very satisfactory manner, doing great credit to the ingenious inventor.

Banffshire Farmer Club.—The influence of associations, for the promotion of the arts and sciences, must be regarded as among the most efficient means of improvement. It is impossible to contemplate the transactions of the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland, since its formation, and the gigantic strides which have been made in the march of rural economy during the

same period, without awarding to that noble institution, the merit of those mighty improvements, which have raised our native Scotland to so distinguished a rank among the agricultural nations of the world, notwithstanding the comparatively unpropitious nature of its climate and soil. One, and perhaps the most important, of the benefits, resulting from the exertions of the above society, has been, the formation of local Associations throughout the country, by which means, every improvement in husbandry may be said to be brought to the door of the humblest individual.

So far back as 1730, an Agricultural Association was formed in Banffshire, under the designation of "a Small Society of Farmers in Buchan," in which district, those parts of Banffshire, which are upon the south side of the river Deveron, have been generally included. Notwithstanding the modesty of its title, it was composed wholly of landed proprietors, several of whom belonged to the southern counties of Scotland. Although it is now scarce possible to ascertain the beneficial influence of this Society, upon the general state of the agriculture of the county, yet we may fairly presume, that it had the effect of directing the attention of the noblemen and gentlemen of the district, to the concerns of husbandry, which had hitherto been accounted beneath the notice of people of fashion.

In 1785, the proprietors and farmers of the county formed an Association, under the title of "the Banffshire Farming Society." Excellent rules were framed and printed, for conducting the business, and prosecuting the objects of the institution; but they seem to have rested in good intention only. Politics usurped the place of the plough, and the meetings of the society became thinly attended. Those who continued their attendance, deemed it unfair, that they should bear both the expense and trouble of the business; and, by a natural course of events, the funds were debited with the tavern bills. The consequence was, that the meetings of the Society dwindled into a kind of lounge for a few of the members, whose situation allowed them, without inconvenience, to attend. In this state of matters, a meeting was at last formed, for the purpose of investing the whole of the funds, which then amounted to a considerable sum, for carrying on a section of the turnpike county road; which proposition was adopted, but not without a keen opposition.

In 1821, an Agricultural Association was formed, under the name of "the Banffshire Farmer Club." This institution has fared

very differently from its predecessor, having, under judicious management, been productive of the most beneficial results, in awakening a laudable spirit of enterprize and emulation among the agriculturists of the lower district of the county, who may bear a comparison with any of their brethren in Scotland, for skill and success in the several departments of husbandry. There are two ordinary meetings of the club in the course of the year, which are held at Cullen, on the first Tuesdays of March and November. On these occasions, the members dine together in an elegant hall, provided for them by the liberality of the Right Honourable the Earl of Seafield, and, on the removal of the cloth, proceed to the discussion of some subject connected with agriculture, of which previous notice has been given, each member being expected to afford to those present, the benefit of his practical knowledge, as it may happen to bear upon the question for the day. An extraordinary meeting of the club is held annually at Cornhill, on the first Tuesday of August, for a competition show of horses and cattle, on which occasion, the sum of from L.25 to L.30 of the funds of the association, is expended in premiums to the successful competitors. The interest excited by the important object of this meeting, has the effect of securing a numerous attendance of local proprietors and tenants, and of agriculturists from the adjacent districts. The quality of the stock exhibited is invariably such as to do the greatest credit to the exhibitors, and to maintain the high character which the county has so long held, for the successful prosecution of this important branch of husbandry. Ploughing matches and seed shows are occasionally held, under the patronage of the club; and it deserves to be mentioned, that, to this association, the lower district of the county has been mainly indebted for the services of a veterinary surgeon,—a liberal salary having been for many years paid, from the funds, for the encouragement of a resident practitioner of this important department of the healing art. The club is composed almost exclusively of landed proprietors, and practical farmers, and consists at present of eighty-three members, of whom twenty are honorary. Each member contributes one guinea annually to the funds. Attached to the club, is a library for the use of the members, containing 100 volumes, on subjects more immediately connected with agriculture.

Fisheries.—All the different kinds of white and shell fish, common to Scotland, are to be found in abundance on the coast, and

fishing, on an extensive scale, has long been prosecuted by the inhabitants. About one-third of the whole population are directly dependent upon the produce of the sea, for their subsistence. There are seven first class boats employed in the deep sea fishery, each having an equipment of from eight to nine able-bodied men. The following is the routine of the Cullen fisherman's employment throughout the year. The deep sea white-fishery, which is chiefly for cod, skate, and ling, commences in February, and continues to the end of May. In the prosecution of this department of their calling, the fishermen usually resort to the distance of from twenty to sixty miles from land, and remain at sea for days and nights together, in the event of the weather proving favourable. On the return of the boats to shore, the operation of curing the fish immediately commences; the process of drying them, occupying a period of three or four weeks. The month of June is chiefly employed in fishing for haddocks, which are cured into speldings. From the end of June, the fishermen are exclusively occupied in preparing for the herring-fishery, which commences about the 10th July, and continues for seven weeks, ending about the beginning of September. At the conclusion of the herring-fishery, the fishermen repair to the south for the disposal of their stock of dried fish, and in general find a ready market. From their return about the end of September, to the commencement of the deep sea fishery in February, they betake themselves to the haddock-fishery, which is generally prosecuted in skiffs or yawls, with four men to each, at the distance of from one to six miles from shore. With the exception of the small quantity that is sold fresh, chiefly to the inhabitants of the parish, the fish caught at this season are cured into yellow haddocks, by the process of smoking. The bait commonly used in the prosecution of the white-fishery is mussel, which is imported by the fishermen in their large boats, from the shores of Inverness, Cromarty, Ross, and Sutherland. The crews provide themselves annually with two or three cargoes each, at a cost of L.2, 10s. per boat load of nine tons.

Herring-Fishery.—From the introduction of the herring-fishery into the Moray Frith in 1816, to 1837, the business was vigorously and successfully prosecuted at Cullen, by the native fishermen. The seasons of 1834 and 1836 having proved unfavourable, the fishermen became discouraged, and perceiving that their brethren, at the other stations on the coast, were reaping abun-

dant harvests, while they were toiling from year to year, without adequate remuneration, they almost all to a man engaged themselves to the curers at Wick, Macduff, Fraserburgh, and Peterhead, to which places they continue to resort annually. The average number of boats belonging to Cullen is thirty, each having a crew of four men, of whom, in general, two are the owners, the others being hired for the season. The ordinary terms on which the curers engage the boats, are 11s. per cran of herrings, to the amount of 200 crans, besides certain allowances in name of bounty, drink money, &c., which may amount to L.20 per boat. The following is an abstract of the quantity of white-herrings, cod, and ling, cured at Cullen, from 1827 to 1841, inclusive.

| Year. | No. of barrels of herrings cured. | No. of cwts. of cod and ling cured. |
|---------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1827, . | 5,369 | 124 |
| 1828, . | 2,468 | 104 |
| 1829, . | 1,254 | 548 |
| 1830, . | 5,093 ¹ | 324 |
| 1831, . | 5,583 ¹ | |
| 1832, . | 4,428 | 324 |
| 1833, . | 2,527 | 455 |
| 1834, . | 945 | 443 |
| 1835, . | 2,491 | 188 |
| 1836, . | 1,608 | 260 |
| 1837, . | 302 | 189 |
| 1838, . | 78 | 149 |
| 1839, . | 547 | 290 |
| 1840, . | 502 | 159 |
| 1841, . | 76 | 168 |
| Total, | 33,272 | 3,725 |

Salmon-Fishery.—For several years past, a salmon-fishery has been prosecuted in the bay of Cullen, with very considerable success. The parishioners are supplied, on moderate terms, with this delicious article of food; but the bulk of the fish taken is sent to the London market. The bag-net is that exclusively used. The Messrs Hogarth of Aberdeen are the tacksmen of the fishery.

Raw Produce.—The average gross amount of raw produce of the parish, as nearly as can be ascertained, is as follows:—

Agricultural.—

| | | | |
|--|--------|--------|-----|
| Produce of grain of all kinds, | L.1330 | 0 | 0 |
| potatoes and turnips, | 440 | 0 | 0 |
| hay and land in pasture, including pasture
in the park of Cullen House, | 900 | 0 | 0 |
| gardens, | 350 | 0 | 0 |
| | <hr/> | L.3020 | 0 0 |

Fisheries.—

| | | | |
|--|--------|-------|------------|
| Cod, ling, skate, &c. 6 boats, at L.80 each, . . | L.480 | 0 | 0 |
| Haddocks, 9 do. 100 | 900 | 0 | 0 |
| Herrings, 30 do. 130 crans each, =3900 | | | |
| crans, at 11s., | 2145 | 0 | 0 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | L.3525 | 0 0 | L.3020 0 0 |

| | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|--------|---|---|--------|---|---|
| | Brought over, | L.3525 | 0 | 0 | L.3020 | 0 | 0 |
| Oil, | | 118 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| Offals, | | 10 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| Dunghills, | | 120 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| Salmon-fishery, | | 750 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| | | | | | 4523 | 0 | 0 |
| Total amount of value of raw produce, | | | | | L.7543 | 0 | 0 |

Manufactures.—At one period, manufactures were carried on in this parish, to a considerable extent. The patriotic Earl of Findlater and Seafield, (see *Eminent Characters*), to whom Banffshire has been so largely indebted for his beneficent exertions in the cause of improvements, introduced this branch of industry in 1748. His Lordship then presided at the Board of Trustees for Manufactures at Edinburgh—an office which afforded him peculiar facilities for the establishment of manufactures at Cullen; and, accordingly, under his fostering care, the measure was attended with entire success. The writer of the last Statistical Account of the parish states, “There are in this small place, 65 looms constantly employed in weaving linen, some few of them in weaving damask. The manufacturers also give out a great number of webs, to be woven by country weavers in their own shops. There are also seven stocking-looms constantly employed.” Of Cullen, as regards manufactures, it may now be truly said, “non sum qualis eram;” the business as a staple article of trade having altogether vanished.

Harbour and Navigation.—In 1817, a small but substantial harbour was erected by the Earl of Seafield; and, in 1834, it was greatly enlarged and improved, by the erection of an additional quay, which has rendered it one of the best harbours in the Moray Frith. From first to last, the work has cost his Lordship upwards of L.10,000. There is a depth of $8\frac{1}{2}$ feet water at the pier’s head at neap tides, and of 12 feet at spring tides. There are 4 vessels belonging to the port, of from 40 to 100 tons burthen each—amounting in all to 270 tons. The harbour-dues are 2d. per ton, and yield an annual revenue of L.70. The principal imports are, coals, salt, staves, and barley (for distillation). The chief exports are, herrings, dried fish, timber, oats, and potatoes.

Boat-Building, &c.—Boat-building is carried on to a considerable extent in the parish, the abundance of timber grown in the immediate vicinity, affording ample facilities for the prosecution of this branch of industry. The average number of boats built in the course of the year, may be computed at 44, viz. boats of the first class, intended for the deep sea and herring-fishery, 36;

skiffs or yawls, 8. There are three master builders, and the business affords employment to 22 individuals. Ship-building, to a small extent, is occasionally carried on. In the course of the last three years, five vessels, of from 40 to 110 tons each, and of superior construction, have been built and equipped at the harbour of Cullen.

Distillery.—In 1824, a distillery was erected at Tochieneal, and received a very considerable enlargement in 1828. Average annual quantity of spirits distilled from malt for the last five years, 25,292 gallons at proof: annual average duty paid for spirits and malt for the same period, L.5188, 13s. 3d. The work gives employment to 12 persons, including two officers of excise.

Mills.—There are three mills on the water of Cullen, viz. a lint-mill, a circular saw-mill, and a meal-mill; at the last of which, about 2500 bolls of grain (oats and barley) are annually ground. On the Seafield estate, the ancient law of astrictio is abolished, the tenants being at liberty to have their grain milled where they please.

Wages and Prices.—A male farm-servant usually receives from L.5 to L.7, 10s. half yearly, exclusive of lodging and maintenance. The wages of female domestics for the same period are from L.2 to L.2, 15s. Herd-boys are hired at the rate of from L.1, 5s. to L.2 for the season of six months, with maintenance. Day-labourers earn 1s. 10d. per day in summer, and 1s. 5d. in winter, without victuals. Harvest fees are, for a man, L.2, 5s.; and for a female reaper, L.1, 10s., with maintenance. The following are the ordinary weekly wages of journeymen tradesmen: Blacksmiths, 10s. 6d.; masons, 15s.; shoemakers, 9s.; tailors, 10s.; square-wrights, 11s.; cart-wrights, 11s.; boat-builders, 12s.; sawyers, 15s.; saddlers, 12s.; bakers, 10s.; slaters, 16s.; gardeners, 9s.; coopers, 12s.; plasterers, 15s. 6d. Carters charge 6d. per hour for the use of a one-horse cart.

The following are the current prices of the under-mentioned articles: An iron plough, fully mounted, L.3, 10s. to L.3, 15s.; a wooden plough, do., L.3 to L.3, 5s.; a cart, with wheels, L.6, 12s.; a pair of harrows, with tines, L.2; fanners, L.3, 10s.; turnip-sower, L.1, 15s. to L.2; drill-plough, L.2, 5s. to L.2, 10s.; scuffle-harrow, L.1, 16s.; a saddle, L.4 to L.5; a first class fishing boat of eleven tons burthen, L.32, and when fully equipped for the deep sea fishery, L.75; a boat fully equipped for the hering-fishery, L.120; a skiff or yawl, L.10, 5s. 6d.; a pair of men's

shoes, 10s. 6d.; tailor's charge for making a coat, 7s., a vest, 2s. 6d., trowsers, 2s. 6d.; butter, from 8d. to 9d. per pound; eggs, 5d. per dozen; sweet milk, 3d. per Scotch pint, or $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per English pint; haddocks, 1s. per dozen; lobsters, 6d. each; a good sized cod, 6d.; ditto turbot, 1s. 6d.; beef, 6d. per pound; mutton, 6d. per do.; a good hen, 1s.; a turkey, 3s.; English coals, 1s. 2d. per imperial barrel; peats, 2s. per cart-load; firewood, 1s. 6d. per do.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Town and Village.—The town of Cullen consists of two parts, which are completely separated, viz. the New Town, and the Sea Town or Fish Town; the latter being situated on the shore, and inhabited chiefly by fishermen. The predecessor of the former, which was called the Old Town, was meanly built, and, about twenty years ago, was utterly demolished, in order to make way for the improvements of Cullen House. The New Town, by which it was replaced, stands nearer to the sea than the old one did, being close to the eastern extremity of the Sea Town, above which it is considerably elevated. It is a very neat little town. The houses are good, and the streets are laid out on a tasteful and regular plan, according to which but a moiety is as yet erected. The Boundary Commissioners observe, however, that, “being favourably situated for fishing, and in a well cultivated district, it may be expected to increase.” Its symmetrical form presents a curious contrast to the contiguous awkward squad of fishermen's houses constituting the Sea Town, and which display a total independence of any thing like partial subordination to the “rank and file” of streets—their relative positions very much resembling those of hail-stones as they fall on the ground.

As an agreeable and desirable residence, the town of Cullen possesses many advantages. It lies on the post-road, and in a highly salubrious district. It is beautifully situated on the margin of the romantic bay of Cullen, and in the immediate vicinity of the picturesque grounds of Cullen House. The society is most respectable; and all sorts of commodities are to be had at a moderate cost. It has the benefit of a post-office, a regular butcher-market, a brewery, a convenient harbour, good schools, skilful tradesmen, excellent shops, gas-light, a copious supply of good water, plenty of all the necessities of life supplied from a rich country, on the one hand, and an ample supply of all kinds of

fish from the sea, on the other, with the command of abundance of the various sorts of fuel.

Means of Communication.—Cullen enjoys the advantage of a local post-office, which, previous to the introduction of the penny postage, yielded an average revenue of L.165; present revenue, L.95. There are daily mails to and from Aberdeen and the south, and to and from Inverness and the north. The turnpike road, from Banff to Fochabers, traverses the parish for a distance of one mile and a half, and passes through the town. A new line of excellent turnpike from Cullen to Keith, was opened in 1836. A stage-coach between Elgin and Banff passes and repasses the burgh daily; and there is a weekly communication with Aberdeen and Inverness, by means of carriers' waggons. Steam-boats plying between Inverness and London, and between Leith and Inverness, pass through the bay of Cullen. The Cullen toll-bar, for the Banff and Keith turnpikes, is situated at the distance of two furlongs to the southward of the town, and yields an average revenue of L. 150.

Municipal State.—Cullen is a royal burgh of considerable antiquity, as appears from a charter of James I., 6th March 1455, ratifying another of Robert I., by which were granted to the burgh, the usual liberties, privileges, and advantages. There is reason to believe, however, that Cullen possessed the privileges of royalty previous to the time of Robert I. and that the act of that sovereign was but a confirmation or ratification of burghal privileges, conferred previously either by William the Lion,* or, according to tradition, by Malcolm Canmore. Similar to Banff, it was at one time a constabulary, of which the Earl of Findlater was hereditary constable, by virtue of an ancient right. He ultimately became hereditary chief magistrate, with the title of *Preses*. Under the old constitution of the burgh, the council consisted of the preses, three bailies, dean of guild, treasurer, and thirteen councillors,—in all, nineteen; the jurisdiction extending over a district of about three miles from east to west, and two from north to south. Here, corporations have never existed, every one being entitled to buy, sell, and manufacture as he chose; and burghership was constituted simply by giving a “burghess act.” Merchant councillors were chosen from the sellers of goods, trades council-

* The oldest notice of Cullen on record, so far as is known to the writer, is a deed in the chartulary of Moray, in which William the Lion grants to Richard, Bishop of Moray, “unum toftum in Burgo de Banef, unum in Inverculan, &c.”

lors from handicraftsmen. By the Burgh Reform Act of 1833, the number and order of the council are the same as under the old constitution, with this exception, that the office of chief magistrate or provost is no longer hereditary in the Cullen House family. The Parliamentary boundaries, which are not nearly so extensive as the royalty, extend from the water-mouth of Cullen, along the shore, to the Maiden Paps; thence, due south to the Logie road; thence, in a straight line to the point at which the Banff and Keith roads meet; thence, to the point at which the Seafield and Slacks roads meet; and thence to the bridge over the water of Cullen, the boundary terminating at the water-mouth. Municipal constituency, 38. Annual revenue from L.70 to L.80; expenditure from L.60 to L.65. The burgh possesses this peculiarity, that for long it has been altogether free of debt.

Members of the Scotch Parliament.—The following is a list of the commissioners sent by the “burrow” of “Culane,” to the Scotch Parliament:

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1593. George Duff. | 1681. James Ogilvie. |
| 1617. James Ogilvy. | 1685. George Lessly. |
| 1633. James Lawtie. | 1689. James Ogilvie, (who appears to have been created before 1696, Sir James Ogilvie.) |
| 1639. George Hempisseid. | 1696. Sir John Hamilton of Halcraig, elected in place of Sir James Ogilvie, appointed Secretary of State. |
| 1644. No representative. | 1703. Patrick Ogilvie. |
| 1661. George Dunbar. | |
| 1669. John Baird. | |
| 1673. No representative. | |
| 1678. George Leslie. | |

Members of the British and Imperial Parliaments.—At the union with England, 13th June 1707, the burghs of Elgin, Banff, Cullen, Inverury, and Kintore, sent one member to the British Parliament: and since 2d February 1801, (the union with Ireland), till 3d December 1832, when the Parliament was dissolved after the passing of the Reform Bill, one member to the Imperial Parliament. By the Reform Act of 1832, the town of Peterhead was associated with this district of burghs in sending one member to the Imperial Parliament. The following is a list of the Members of the British and Imperial Parliaments for the above burghs:

1. The Honourable Patrick Ogilvie of Loanmay, 26th May 1708.
2. Alexander Reid, Esq., 27th October 1710.
3. The Hon. James Murray, 17th September 1713.
4. The Hon. James Murray, 5th April 1714.
5. The Hon. James Murray, 19th February 1715.
6. The Hon. M. E. William Fraser, elected 3d April 1722, unseated by the House of Commons, 23d January 1724, and John Campbell, Esq. declared duly elected.
7. William Stuart, Esq., 9th September 1727.
8. Patrick Campbell, Esq., 16th March 1728.

9. The Hon. William Stuart, 18th May 1734.
10. Sir James Grant of Grant, Bart., 28th May 1741.
11. The Right Hon. William Grant of Preston Grange, Esq., 18th February 1746.
12. The same, 22d July 1747.
13. William Grant of Preston Grange, Esq., 9th May 1754.
14. Andrew Mitchell, Esq. of Thamstown, 1st January 1755.
15. The Hon. Andrew Mitchell of do., 20th April 1761.
16. The Hon. Sir Andrew Mitchell, Knight of the Bath, 11th April 1768.
17. Thomas Lockhart, Esq. Counsellor at Law, Lincoln's Inn, London, 20th March 1771.
18. Staats Long Morris, Esq. a Colonel of His Majesty's Forces, 31st October 1774.
19. Major-General Staats Long Morris, 2d October 1780.
20. William Adam, Esq. of Woodstone, 26th April 1784.
21. Alexander Brodie, Esq. of Madras, 12th July 1790.
22. Alexander Brodie, Esq., 20th June 1796.
23. Lieutenant-Colonel Francis William Grant, 2d July 1802.
24. George Skene, Esq. of Skene, 27th November 1806.
25. Archibald Colquhoun, Esq. His Majesty's Advocate for Scotland, 30th May 1807.
26. The Right Hon. William Dundas, 13th July 1810.
27. Archibald Campbell of Blythswood, Esq., 13th April 1812.
28. Patrick Milne, Esq. of Cromonmogate, 30th October 1812.
29. Robert Grant, Esq. Barrister at Law of Lincoln's Inn, London, 11th July 1818.
30. Archibald Farquharson, Esq. of Fenzean, 31st March 1820.
31. Lieutenant-General the Hon. Alexander Duff, Colonel 92d Foot, 3d July 1826.
32. The same, 23d August 1830.
33. Sir William Gordon Gordon Cumming of Altyre and Gordonstone, Bart., 23d May 1831.
34. Lieutenant-Colonel Andrew Leith Hay, younger of Rannes, 29th December 1832.
35. The same, 30th June 1834.
36. The same, 19th January 1835.
37. The same, 2d May 1835.
38. Sir Andrew Leith Hay, younger of Rannes, Knight, 25th July 1837.
39. Fox Maule, Esq. commonly called the Hon. Fox Maule, 13th February 1838.
40. Sir Andrew Leith Hay of Rannes, Knight, 7th July 1841.

The entire constituency of the six burghs is 838, viz. Elgin, 219; Banff, 218; Cullen, 38; Inverury, 102; Kintore, 35; Peterhead, 226.

Ecclesiastical State.—The parish of Cullen originally formed part of the parish of Fordyce, from which it was disjoined at a very remote period. The parish church is a fabric of great antiquity, (*Ecclesiastical History and Antiquities*), and, like many of the religious edifices of the olden time, bears the form of a cross. Notwithstanding its extreme age, the walls are still in a sound state, and seem destined to endure for centuries. The site is highly romantic, being in the centre of the ancient burying-ground, which is almost completely environed by the picturesque pleasure-

grounds of Cullen House, from which the church is only forty yards distant. The interior presents a most venerable appearance,—its dingy light, antique fittings, and the ancient monuments which grace its walls, combining to impart to it a very imposing aspect, and well calculated to aid devotional feeling. The peculiarity of its construction, and the circumstance of never having been ceiled, render public speaking in it somewhat difficult, and a very considerable strength of voice is requisite, to enable the preacher to be generally heard. It was enlarged about forty-four years ago, by the erection of an additional aisle, which, from the circumstance of the minister being invisible to the great body of the hearers, who occupied that portion of the church, by reason of the awkward situation of the pulpit, was commonly denominated “the believers’ loft,”—a title which is no longer applicable, the evil having been remedied by changing the situation of the pulpit. The church is situated close to the western boundary of Cullen proper. It is somewhat about a mile equidistant from the northern, eastern, and southern extremities of the parish, and three miles from the most remote boundary of the annexation. Since the removal of the old town of Cullen, in the centre of which it stood, its situation has become not a little inconvenient for the parishioners, being nearly a mile distant from the New town and Sea town, where nine-tenths of the population are located. It is seated for 800, allowing eighteen inches to each person. The sittings are all free and undivided,—the parishioners being at liberty *more gregis* to accommodate themselves wherever they please. In summer, the whole of the sittings are fully occupied, and in winter, the attendance is one-third less. The average number of communicants is 640, and of male heads of families in full communion with the church, 220. There is no regular Dissenting place of worship, either in Cullen proper, or in the annexation. In the former, the entire number of Dissenters may be computed at 26 souls, viz. Episcopalians, 5; Wesleyan Methodists, 7; Independents, 2; Roman Catholics, 12. With the above exceptions, the whole of the parishioners of Cullen proper professedly belong to the Established Church. The greater part of the Dissenters give occasional attendance at the parish church, and the members of the Methodist communion are in the habit of receiving sealing ordinances, at the hands of the parish minister. There are, usually, four extraordinary church collections du-

ring the year, for religious and charitable purposes, of which the average amount is L. 20.

A handsome manse and suitable set of offices were erected in 1830. The glebe measures about five Scotch acres, and is of excellent arable land, of the annual value of L. 4, 10s. per acre. The stipend consists of the following items: L. 109, 12s. 5d.; barley, 3 quarters, 5 bushels, 2 pecks, $1\frac{7}{8}$ lippies; meal, 7 bolls, 3 firlots, 3 pecks, 1 lippie; L.3, 6s. 8d. paid from the funds of the burgh: L. 36, 8s. 4d. added by the Exchequer.* In addition to the above, the minister receives L.8, 6s. 8d for supplying communion elements, L. 5 in lieu of a grass glebe, and L.8, 6s. 8d. as remuneration for right to peat-moss surrendered.

The Right Honourable the Earl of Seafield is patron and sole heritor.

Ministers of Cullen.—The following is a list of the ministers of the parish of Cullen from 1640 to the present time.

| | | | | |
|--|---|---|-----------------------|------|
| 1. Alexander Seaton was minister in | . | . | . | 1640 |
| 2. William Burnett, | . | . | admitted 6th December | 1663 |
| 3. Robert Farquhar, | . | . | do. 15th January | 1682 |
| 4. John Cumming, late Dean of Moray, | . | . | do. 24th May | 1683 |
| 5. James Chalmers, | . | . | do. 8th May | 1689 |
| 6. { Robert Teat, | . | . | do. | 1697 |
| { The charge was vacant for five years, viz. from 1700 | | | | |
| { to 1705. | | | | |
| 7. { Alexander Irvine, | . | . | do. 7th August | 1705 |
| { Translated to Fordyce, October 1716. | | | | |
| 8. James Lawtie, | . | . | do. 19th March | 1717 |
| 9. { James Anderson, translated from Boindie, | . | . | do. 12th December | 1751 |
| { Translated from Cullen to Keith, 1762. | | | | |
| 10. Robert Grant, translated from Rothies, | . | . | do. 24th September | 1762 |
| 11. { George Innes, | . | . | do. 1st December | 1808 |
| { Translated to Deskford, 6th August 1829, | | | | |
| 12. George Henderson, | . | . | do. 25th September | 1829 |

Seafield Church.—An additional Church, bearing the above title, (in compliment to the noble family of Seafield, to whose munificence the erection was mainly owing,) was erected in 1838–39, in the *quoad sacra* district of the parish, under the impulse of the General Assembly's Church Extension movement. The entire cost of the erection has been L.668; and it is satisfactory to state that it is altogether free of debt. The population of the district for whose accommodation the church is specially designed is upwards of 900; number of sittings, 450; annual seat rent, from 1s. to 3s. 6d., the average being 2s.; annual amount of seat rents, about L.40;

* My predecessor informs me, that, during the earlier part of his incumbency, old people used to tell him of his predecessor, Mr Robert Grant, drawing the small tithes on the other side of the water of Cullen, as Bruntton and the annexed parts.—G. 11.

of ordinary church collections, L. 29. The collections, by consent of Lord Seafield, go to the benefit of the chapel funds, until the debt is liquidated, subject to a deduction of an annual payment to the parochial funds for behoof of the poor, to make up the deficiency in the latter caused by the new erection. Since the church was opened, 16th October 1839, divine service has been performed in it every Lord's day by the minister of Cullen, aided occasionally by the members of presbytery, and the resident probationers; and there is a fair prospect of soon procuring the services of a stated pastor for the charge.

Education.—The parish is abundantly supplied with the means of education, there being altogether in Cullen proper, seven schools, of which four are endowed. The salary of the parochial teacher, which is the medium, aided by an old bequest, is L.36; the average yearly amount of school fees is L. 40; and, as the school enjoys the benefit of the Dick bequest, his official emoluments may be estimated at upwards of L. 100 per annum. The parochial school-house is suitable and commodious; and the teacher is provided with an excellent dwelling-house and garden. The average daily attendance of scholars throughout the year, is 78.

A boarding and day school, for the instruction of young ladies in the plain and ornamental branches of education, is under the direction of an accomplished teacher; the branches taught and terms charged, being the same with those in similar provincial establishments. The teacher is accommodated with an excellent dwelling-house and small garden, rent free, provided by the Earl of Seafield; and in addition to the fees, she receives a salary of fifteen guineas, of which his Lordship contributes ten, and the town-council five.

An infant school, patronised and endowed by the noble family of Seafield, was instituted in 1839. It is efficiently taught by a female, and is usually attended by from 70 to 80 scholars, from the age of two and a-half to that of seven years. The school fee is one penny per week, in addition to which, the teacher receives a salary of fourteen guineas, and is, moreover, provided with a free school-room and dwelling-house.

An unendowed school, for the ordinary branches of education, has, for many years, been successfully taught by the individual who holds the office of session-clerk, at which the average daily attendance is in summer 60, and in winter 120—the latter includ-

ing an evening class, for the instruction of farm-servants and young tradesmen.

In addition to the above, there are three schools, (one of which has an endowment of a salary of L.5, the joint gift of the Earl of Seafield and the town-council of Cullen,) taught by dames, and attended by children from three to ten years of age, who are instructed in reading, knitting, and sewing. These humble seminaries are of much consequence to the labouring classes, and are highly deserving of encouragement, were it for nothing more, than their utility in relieving mothers of much trouble during the day, and keeping their children out of harm's way.

The people in general are fully alive to the advantages of education, as is apparent from the fact, that the average daily attendance of scholars throughout the year is 330, or upwards of one-fifth of the whole population. There is no portion of the parish so distant from school as to prevent regular attendance, and the circumstances of the parishioners at large are such as enable them, without difficulty, to pay the school fees. Formerly, education was much neglected by the fishing population, but a marked change for the better has happily taken place, and is on the increase. On the whole, it may be said of this parish, that the interests of education are in fully as prosperous a state, as in any of the provincial parishes of Scotland.

Sabbath Schools.—Of these there is one in Cullen proper, and another in the annexation, which are under the immediate superintendence of the minister, and usually attended by from 200 to 300 scholars. During the greater part of the year, the minister teaches two Bible classes weekly, which are well attended. They are designed for the benefit of adults of both sexes, whether single or married, of young persons who have left the juvenile Sabbath schools, and of all who propose to offer themselves for admission to the ordinance of the Lord's Supper.

Bursaries.—In 1675, Mr John Lorimer, town-clerk of Cullen, bequeathed a croft of land, containing about one and a half Scotch acres, with the buildings upon it, for the education of a boy at the school of Cullen, of his own name, or related to him, and appointed the town-council and kirk-session of Cullen, joint patrons of the bursary. In consequence of the removal of the old town of Cullen, the bursary land is now within the precincts of the Cullen House policy, and is held in tack by the Earl of Seafield, who pays an annual rent of 5 qrs. 3 bushels, 3 pecks, 1½ lippies, bear,

convertible into money at the county fiars price. On a recent application by the Noble Earl to the patrons, the latter agreed to an excambion of the bursary land, which is now in course of being made. In 1764, Mr William Lorimer of St James's Parish, London, grandnephew of the aforesaid Mr John Lorimer, out of gratitude for the benefit of his own education, upon his granduncle's foundation, bequeathed a sum of money sufficient to yield L.1 yearly, to provide books for his granduncle's bursar, and also 10s. yearly, to the schoolmaster of Cullen, for his attention to said bursar. The benefit of this bursary continues for the space of five years.

The aforesaid Mr William Lorimer was also the founder of a separate bursary, having, in 1764, bequeathed the sum of L.200 for the education of his granduncle's bursar, if found qualified, and the relations of his mother, alternately, at the High School of Aberdeen, for one year, and, thereafter, at Marischal College, for four years. The foundation is under the management of the Magistrates and Town-Council of Aberdeen, the Principal and Professors of Marischal College, and the Magistrates and Minister of Cullen. In consequence of the lack of candidates for this bursary since its foundation, the funds have accumulated to such an amount, as to admit of the simultaneous education of two bursars, and yielding the annual sum of L.12 to each.

In 1721, Mr John Watson, Merchant in Edinburgh, a native of the parish of Cullen, bequeathed 2000 merks Scotch, for assisting in the education of a boy at the school of Cullen, related to him by father or mother,—the nearest of kin to be preferred. The patronage of the bursary is vested in the kirk-session of Cullen. The sum originally mortified yields L.2, 2s. per annum to the bursar, who enjoys the benefit for the period of four years. The same benevolent individual founded similar bursaries at the schools of Banff and Fordyce.

The above bequests, under judicious management, have proved most beneficial to the founders' relations, and have been the means of raising many a destitute youth to opulence and respectability.

Parochial Library.—In 1830, a parochial library was established. It consists of a well-selected assortment of works, in the several departments of literature and science.

Friendly Societies.—Formerly, the following friendly Societies existed in the parish, viz. Innocent's Lodge of Free Masons, instituted 1808; Linen Society, instituted 1792; Wrights' Society,

transferred from Banff, 1806. The above Societies were instituted for the purpose of relieving sick and indigent brethren, their widows and children. They were all dissolved in 1832, in consequence of an Act of Parliament passed, or about to be passed, at that time, respecting the funds of Friendly Societies. The Mason Lodge was remodelled in 1835. It consists at present of from 60 to 70 members, and has a disposable fund of about L.100. This Society, previous to its dissolution in 1832, numbered 270 members.

Poor and Poor's Funds.—The average number of persons regularly receiving parochial aid is 87, viz. 71 in Cullen proper, and 16 in the annexation. The distributions are made quarterly; intermediate aid being advanced occasionally, in case of urgent necessity. The average sum allotted to each person per annum is, in Cullen proper, 15s. 4½d., and in the annexation, 14s. 3d. The average annual amount of monies, for the last seven years, available for behoof of the poor, and under the management of the kirk-session, is L.76, 14s. 10½d., arising from the following sources, viz. church collections, L.59, 4s. 6d.; interest of funds, L.6, 9s. 4d.; dues on proclamations of banns, L.1, 18s. 11d.; hire of mortcloth, L.1, 6s. 9¼d.; mortification, L.2, 2s.; penalties, L.5, 13s. 4¼d. The average annual expenditure, for the same period, is L.78, 13s. 8d., viz. quarterly distributions, L.66, 6s. 2½d.; occasional aid, L.4, 15s.; officers' fees and other expenses, L.7, 12s. 5¼d. There never has been an assessment for the support of the poor; the voluntary contributions of the community, together with the items above stated, having hitherto proved sufficient for affording the usual rate of aliment.

Bede-House.—There formerly existed in the parish a bedehouse, or hospital, for the maintenance of a limited number of decayed persons, the origin of which cannot now be precisely determined. It appears to have been founded by the Findlater family, and its name* marks it as an institution of Popish times.

* *Bede*, in Saxon, prayer; *bede men*, who joined in the celebration of masses for the dead. The writer has gleaned the following traditionary notices regarding the Bede House of Cullen, which may be relied on as substantially correct. The lands of Upper Pattenbringan and Brunton were mortified, for the support of eight decayed farmers, and eight farmers' widows. A house of two storeys was built for them in Cullen; each flat divided into eight sleeping apartments and a kitchen. The men occupied the lower, and the women the upper flat. The men had two pecks of oatmeal, and the women one and a-half ditto each per week. From Pattenbringan and Brunton, week about, they were supplied with milk in summer, and beer in

About sixty years ago, the hospital system was abolished, and the funds, which are under the patronage and management of the Earl of Seafield, are expended in stated and occasional allowances of meal, to poor families belonging to the parishes of Cullen, Rathven, Deskford, and Fordyce, residents on the Seafield estate; by which means the charity is rendered more extensively useful. From the above source, the parish of Cullen derives about 85 bolls annually; of which, 70 bolls are shared by 40 persons, in weekly pecks and half pecks; ten and a-quarter bolls are placed at the disposal of the kirk-session; and five bolls are distributed by the local factor. *

winter. The allowance of milk was the produce of one cow, and unskimmed; the allowance of beer was the produce of two pecks of malt. At Christmas, yearly, they were furnished from the aforesaid farms, alternately, with a good fat horned *mairt*, and salt to salt it. The horns supplied them with spoons, and the hide with brogues. From Pattenbringan and Brunton, week about, a female servant was sent to make the men's beds and clean out their apartments. From the same farms, they got what was called *leet peats* for fuel, in equal proportions, which were not only brought to their door, but built up for them; and if their fuel fell short, Cullen House was bound to make up the deficiency. They were annually supplied with blue top coats, and the old ones were made into vests and breeches. When they wanted bed-clothes, they carried the old to Cullen House, and received new. They were all obliged, if in health, to attend church every Sabbath, and they sat on forms, in front of the recumbent stone figure within the elegant sarcophagus, in the eastern aisle of the church. The eight figures, in niches, along the foot of the tomb, are supposed to represent the *bede men*. It is said, that, at one period, part of their duty was to sit at the church doors, with pike staves in their hands, in order to prevent the ingress of dogs. A herald, from Edinburgh, visited the Bede House half yearly, when every *bede man* and *bede woman* was interrogated separately, if they had any complaint to make in regard to their domestic comfort, and if so, Cullen House was immediately applied to for redress.

* The following bequests have been made by persons, natives of, or connected with, the parish of Cullen. In 1650, John Lawtie, burgess of Cullen, bequeathed his whole property, consisting of a house, a garden, and a croft of land, for behoof of the poor of Cullen, which pays, of yearly rent, to the kirk session, L.2, 2s. In 1657, William Lawtie, of Myre House, bequeathed a croft of land, with some houses, and a sum of money, with which were purchased some additional acres of land, within the parish, for behoof of poor persons related to him, or bearing his name. The aforesaid bequests are under the patronage and management of the heirs and representatives of the founders. William Leslie, of Birdsbank, an heir in the parish, bequeathed the sum of 1000 merks Scotch, and appointed the interest to be applied as an encouragement to a schoolmaster in Cullen, under the direction of the magistrates. This money, by a negotiation of that body, was settled in the hands of the Earl of Findlater, upon his agreeing to make some addition to it, and he thereby became patron of the school. A Mr Smith bequeathed a house, a garden, and a croft of land, and appointed the rents of them as an additional encouragement to the schoolmaster of Cullen. Collector John Ogilvie, of the Customs at Inverness, and his son, Bailie William Ogilvie, Merchant in Banff, bequeathed the sum of L.44, 9s., the interest to be applied, by the kirk-session of Cullen, for behoof of the founders' poor relations, and the poor of the parish, in equal parts. The following bequests were made to the kirk-session of Cullen, for behoof of the poor, viz. Mr James Ogilvie, formerly wadsetter of Logie, L.16, 13s. 4d.; in 1805, Dr Brands, Jamaica, L.20; in 1824, Miss Janet Grant, daughter of the Rev. Robert Grant, formerly minister of Cullen, L.20.

The Noble family of Seafield distribute annually, in voluntary charity, forty-one bolls of meal, among twenty indigent and aged females, residents in the parish of Cullen; and, in other respects, attend to the wants of the poor, with a beneficence and liberality worthy of their honoured name. There is an annual subscription among the inhabitants, for the support of a coal fund, from which the poor are liberally supplied, during the winter months, with that important article of the necessaries of life.

It thus appears, that the wants of the poor of this parish are most amply provided for; in proof of which, it deserves to be mentioned, that there is scarcely ever such a thing as regular begging on the part of the inhabitants. The people evince much of the ancient spirit of independence, in their laudable efforts to maintain themselves by the labour of honest industry, so long as the power of doing so remains, and show much reluctance in applying for parochial relief.

Banks.—A branch of the Aberdeen Bank was established in the burgh in 1837. It has experienced very considerable success, and has proved an important boon to the community of Cullen and the surrounding districts. A savings' bank was established in 1816, and has been productive of the most beneficial effects. The institution is open to the inhabitants of the adjacent parishes. The following is a statement of its affairs, 1st April 1842: number of depositors, 480; amount of principal sums due, L.7069, 15s. 7½d.; amount of interest due, L.260, 13s. 4¾d.; total amount due to depositors, L.7330, 9s.; average sum of each deposit, L.15, 5s. 5½d.

Courts.—The following courts are statedly held in Cullen, viz. Sheriff Small-debt Court, for sums not exceeding L.8, 6s. 8d., on the second Thursday of February, June, and October; Justice of Peace Court, on the first Tuesday of every month, for sums not exceeding L.5; Registration Court, for the enrolment of Parliamentary electors under the Reform Act, in August annually. The ordinary meetings of the Reverend the Presbytery of Fordyce are held at Cullen.

Prison.—The only place of confinement in the burgh is a lock-up-house, for the purpose of punishing petty delinquents by a short imprisonment, and to be used, in case of need, for the safe custody of prisoners on their way to the county jail. It consists of three apartments or cells of moderate dimensions, vaulted, paved, lighted, and ventilated.

Insurance Companies.—There are three branches of Insurance Companies in the parish, viz. the Scottish Union, the Aberdeen Fire and Life, and the North of Scotland.

Fairs and Markets.—Of these, there are three held annually, viz. Whitsunday market, on the third Friday of May; Martinmas market, on the second Friday of November; St John's fair, on the 7th January. They are chiefly for the feeing of servants, and are well attended. There is a weekly market for the sale of grain during the spring months, at which business, to a considerable amount, is occasionally transacted; and dealers frequenting it are accommodated with the use of excellent grain lofts, which are let on moderate terms.

Inns and Alehouses.—There are two inns in the burgh. The principal inn is a handsome and commodious building, and inferior to none on the route from Aberdeen to Inverness. The internal accommodation is such as deservedly to attract the admiration of strangers, and the posting department is very complete. In the Seatown, there are three public-houses. There are thus altogether five public-houses, including the two inns. This number does not appear to be unreasonably great; and the magistrates of Cullen deserve well of the community, for the laudable exercise of their discretion, in the granting of licenses to so very moderate an extent.

Gas-Light.—A Gas-light Company was formed in 1841, with a capital of L.1000, in as many shares; and, in November last, the inhabitants obtained the benefit of this light in great purity and brilliancy. The gas has already been introduced into eighty houses, with the prospect of the number being speedily doubled. The consumpt of gas for six months, from 5th November 1841, has been 80,000 cubic feet. The charge is 16s. per 1000 cubic feet.

Fuel.—Formerly peat constituted the chief article of fuel, which was obtained from a moss in the immediate vicinity. The moss being now under cultivation is no longer serviceable for fuel; nor, indeed, have the parishioners any cause to regret the loss of their privilege. They are abundantly supplied with coal on moderate terms; and, all things considered, the change has proved advantageous in regard both to comfort and economy. Peat is still occasionally used, being brought from the neighbouring parishes

of Rathven and Deskford; and the extensive forests belonging to the Earl of Seafield afford, at all times, abundance of fire-wood.

* * * The writer begs to acknowledge his obligations to the following gentlemen, for the valuable aid afforded him by them in the compilation of the foregoing statistics, viz. John Wilson, Esq. Tochieneal; James Christie, Esq. Solicitor, Banff; and Mr James Young, Session-clerk of Cullen.

May 1842.

PARISH OF BOHARM.

PRESBYTERY OF ABERLOUR, SYNOD OF MORAY.

THE REV. L. W. FORBES, A. M., MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

IN very early times, there seems to have been a parish of Arndilly, then called Artendol, the church of which stood on the eminence which is now the site of the mansion-house of Arndilly, on the banks of the Spey, in the south-west corner of the present parish. Vestiges of such ecclesiastical occupation of this lovely spot remained till within the memory of man, the ruins of the church being cleared away to make room for part of the offices of the mansion-house, and an equivalent being then given for the glebe, which now forms part of the lawn.

In the chartulary of Moray, as quoted by Shaw in his History of the Province, there is a deed recorded, which must be of date about A. D. 1215, by which William, the son of William, the son of Freskyn de Moravia, of a family very distinguished at that time, and possessed of large domains in this district, granted to the cathedral church of Moray "the church of Artendol, with all its pertinents, excepting the corn tithes of the two Davochs, which lay next to his Castle of Bucharin, viz. Bucharin and Achelnathorck, which tithes, by the consent of Brice, Bishop of Moray, were assigned to the granter's chapel of his Castle of Bucharin for the support of a chaplain." If by "Achelnathork" we are to un-

derstand the property now called “ Auchlunkart,” then these two Davochs constitute the greater part of what was the parish of Boharm down to the year 1788, and it is conjectured that the church at Arndilly having been allowed to go to ruin, perhaps even before the Reformation, the chapel of the Castle of Bucharin, in a much more central and convenient situation, became the place of worship for the whole district, and gave name to the parish.

In the year 1788, the parish of Dundurcos, lying due north from Boharm, on both sides of the Spey, was suppressed, and the part of it which lay to the east of the river was annexed to Boharm, except one small property, Aikenway, which, with the lands on the west side of the river, was annexed to Rothes. The annexation added to Boharm upwards of a third both in extent of surface and in the number of the population.

The old parish is in the county of Banff. The annexation, excepting a small fragment in Banffshire, is in the county of Elgin.

Name.—The name, Bucharin, Bucharn, Boharme, Boharm, is said, in the former Account, and in Shaw's History, to signify in Gaelic “ *the bow round the hill,*” and this is very descriptive of the parish as now constituted : for the Spey being the boundary on the west, and the mountain Benagen rising almost abruptly from the bed of that river, the cultivated part of the parish consists chiefly of a circular valley on the south, east, and north sides of the hill. But as this description is only partially applicable to the district so named of old, the old parish containing only one-half of the bow, one is rather inclined to seek another derivation, and to suppose that the castle, whence, as we have seen, the parish had its origin, took its name from its own situation, and bestowed it on its dependent district. It stood on the point where the brook Altarn, now Aldernie, *i. e.* the burn of alders, flows into the Fiddich, which, just at that point, takes a very singular turn in its course. Hence, perhaps, Bucharn, or “ *the bend of the alder stream,*” for the name of the castle, and so from the castle to the parish which it originated.

Boundaries and Extent.—The parish, as now formed, is bounded by Mortlach on the south ; by Aberlour on the south-west ; by Rothes on the west ; by Fochabers or Bellie on the north and north-east ; by Keith on the east ; and by Botriphnie on the south-east. From the boundary with Aberlour at the confluence of the Fiddich with the Spey, it is about 13 miles in length.

From the boundary with Mortlach to that with Bellie, which may be taken for the mean length, the distance is about 9 miles. The breadth from Keith and Botriphnie boundaries to the Spey averages 4 miles; but at the middle of the length, the cultivated and inhabited part is of considerably less breadth; being much compressed by the bulky mass of Benagen, which occupies a very great proportion of the whole surface, and forms the circular valley already mentioned, which, narrow in the middle, and expanding at either end, is all cultivated, both in the bottom and to a considerable distance up the slopes on each side, and to which, and a valley opening into it, from Keith eastward, to a detached district in the eastern angle, and to a narrow strip along the river, interrupted at the middle for about two miles, partly by the peninsular pendicle annexed from Dundurcos to Rothes, and partly by the abrupt ascent of the hill, the cultivation is chiefly confined. On the map, the parish has nearly the figure of a long parallelogram, following the course of the Spey from south to north. The whole, except the strip along the river, lies high above the level of the sea. The summit level of the bottom of the valley running round the hill is 400 feet above the sea level, from which height the valley gradually descends to both ends, till near the junctions with the valley of the Spey, when the descents become very abrupt. In the other valley, opening from the east, the waters divide,—one-half running to the Deveron at twelve miles distance east, the other to the Spey at four miles distance west. The height of Benagen above the sea is 1500 feet, and, on the south and east, the cultivated ground extends nearly half-way up its sides.

Meteorology and Climate.—A register of the weather was kept at the old manse by the late incumbent, now the learned Professor of Humanity and Natural History in King's College, Aberdeen, and one of the ministers of St Machar's, which, from July 1803 to February 1809, has been already published in the Agricultural Survey of Banffshire.

The present incumbent has, since March 1818, but, it is to be feared, with much less accuracy, kept a register both of the weather and of vegetation at the new manse, about three miles nearer the sea, and about fifty feet nearer the sea level.

The prevailing wind is the south-west, particularly in autumn and spring, and it is often very violent, sweeping down the long valley of the Spey, which, till it turns here, runs to the south-east.

After blowing strongly for a day or two, these westerly gales often end in rain or snow. It is observable, that, when very violent, they always send the river down more or less flooded, partly, perhaps, from their own action on the stream, but oftener, it is supposed, by bringing the rains to the upper part of the river before they reach us, or where they are exhausted without reaching us at all.

As spring advances, this district is often visited with cold easterly haars, frequently accompanied with frosty fogs, extremely prejudicial to early vegetation. In the early part of summer, the wind not unfrequently sets in from the north, for a considerable tract of time steadily dry. In summer, thunder is frequent; and, from the proximity of the hills, the accompanying rains are very heavy and destructive. Contrary to what might be expected, the parish is singularly free from early frosts in autumn, and this much mitigates the lateness of its vegetation and harvest. There is always one considerable flood, sometimes two or three in the early part of autumn, and the cold winter rains commence generally about the middle of November.

The climate, except in the strip along the river, where the elevation is small, and the soil gravelly, is cold and moist. The rains are frequent, and the soil is very retentive of moisture, yet the parish is healthy. Its inhabitants are generally vigorous and hardy, though spare, and live long, without affording many instances of extreme longevity. Agues by the recent drainage of the marshes seem to be altogether removed. Fevers, except scarlatina among children, are rare. Measles are seldom fatal; and universal vaccination appears to have altogether banished small-pox. Consumption at the age of from eighteen to twenty-two is rather frequent. Of late, cancers have been common, cutting off at least one victim yearly. The chief complaint of more advanced age is failure of digestion, owing, perhaps, partly to the nature of the climate, but mostly to the almost exclusive use of vegetable food, the large quantity of which necessary for support being easily discussed in the days of vigorous youth, but proving burdensome to the organs when their powers become less active.

Hydrography.—There is abundance of spring water in the parish, except in the northern extremity. There are several very strong chalybeates.

The River Spey separates the parish from Rothes on the west,

from the influx of the Fiddich, near the bridge of Craigellachie, down to Ordequish, about a mile above the village of Fochabers, the small peninsula excepted, which has been already noticed as annexed to Rothes, though on the Boharm side, and, excepting also two trifling haughs of this parish, which are on the Rothes side. This rapid, large, and turbulent stream, rising in Lochaber, holds for about ninety miles a direction due south-east, till it strikes upon the abutments of Benagen at the south-west angle of this parish, when it is turned due north for the rest of its course, about sixteen miles, to the Moray Frith, at Garmach. It is strictly a mountain stream, sometimes falling very low, and often very suddenly rising in mighty floods, provincially *spates*, which, on various occasions within memory, have been so large as to fill the whole bottom of the valley (nearly a mile in breadth) with resistless torrents, most destructive to property, and even fatal to life. The flood of 1829, so well chronicled by Sir Thomas Dick Lauder, will not soon be forgotten on the banks of the Spey. The river is generally so large in autumn, winter, and spring, as in these seasons to permit the fir timber of the forests of Rothiemurcus, Abernethy, Invereshie, &c. to be floated down in immense rafts to the various timber yards on the bank, and to the sea at Garmach.

The Fiddich, which, descending through the lovely vale of Balveny in Mortlach, skirts this parish on the south and south-west, is a stream of considerable magnitude, beautifully wooded, but, like the Spey, is subject to very destructive floods. The rivulet Aldernie, already mentioned, conveys to the Fiddich the collected waters of the upper part of the parish, while those of the lower part, uniting where the eastern valley meets with the circular valley, form the "Orchill," now the burn of Mulben, which thence descending very rapidly to the Spey, which it joins at the place called Boat of Bridge, has cut a very romantic channel for itself in the rocks through which it passes.

Geology.—Along the south boundary of the parish, in the valley of the Fiddich, and a little distance backward to the hill, gneiss is everywhere to be seen. Northward from this, for more than two-thirds of the length of the circular valley, and up to the summits of the hills, talc slate, dipping to the south, and with a direction north-east, is the prevailing rock; it might be called the universal rock, except that it is traversed by frequent veins of quartz, and by a narrow vein of primitive limestone, which sets off

near Keith from the great limestone formation of Banffshire, and, passing entire through a considerable length of the parish, finally loses itself in a number of small veins, as it approaches the gneiss on the south-west. On the authority of Dr Forbes, it may be stated, that, where the talc slate is penetrated by the quartz veins, Kyanite has been frequently found. The limestone is quarried in many places, both for calcination, and for building stone. As a cement it is peculiarly valuable, particularly for hardening speedily under water, as it contains 30 per cent. of silex. This admixture, however, renders it somewhat less valuable as a manure.

Before this talc rock disappears in the lower part of the valley, mica slate is seen alternating with it; and where the talc, at the junction of the eastern valley, meets with a formation of quartz sandstone, and alternates with this, its colour is changed to pure white, and in consistence it becomes extremely soft and unctuous; so that, in fact, the people in the neighbourhood use it for painting their cottages and furniture.

The rocks of the valley of the Spey are gneiss and quartz, having also a north-east direction, and in the lower part of this parish, when once they pass the deep chasm of the Orchil, forming the lower part of the circular valley, these pass under an immense deposit of red clay and gravel, which forms the whole extensive table-land lying above Fochabers. On the south edge, along the chasm of the Orchil, this deposit is skirted by beds of pure white sand, in layers, in some places horizontal, in others inclined, and again in other places curiously contorted, over which beds the red gravel looks as if it had been poured, following all their contortions and sinuosities. The sand is discovered by the action of the burn or other causes removing the overlapping deposit. Proceeding northward and eastward, the depth of this red stuff becomes exceedingly great. The Spey has cut in upon the west side of it, opposite to Orton House, and formed cliffs of great height, the change of whose colour, from bright red to dark crimson, is a sure prognostic of rain. The brooks which drain off the moisture from the table-land have formed many ravines almost perpendicular in the sides, and in many instances from 50 to 100 feet deep. Nay, it is not uncommon, where a ditch has been cut, or the surface otherwise removed, to find a new ravine formed of great depth in the course of one day by the first heavy rains. Towards the bottom of these ravines, the sides,

before long exposure to the air, are hard and compact, having much the appearance of breccia traversed by horizontal layers of soft sandstone. After some exposure, they become soft. The breccia-like substance is reduced to clay and gravel, and the sandstone to sand, ready to be swept away by the next rain. The bright crimson colour of the torrents poured through these ravines into the Spey has often attracted observation. They are absolutely like torrents of blood. On this table-land no springs rise, except at its edges, to which of course cultivation is confined; while the rest of it, except where planted, for which it is all admirably adapted, remains a barren waste.

Further to the east, and forming the north-eastern side of the lateral valley, are the round hills of Muldeary, the western slope of which is in this parish composed of the same red clay and gravel; abounding here, however, both superficially and in the subsoil, with large boulders of granite and hornblende. These, in some places, are so numerous as to cover the surface, and totally prevent cultivation. They afford building stone of the best quality, and are extensively used in this way.

Zoology.—Red-deer frequently visit the parish, chiefly in their passage from the forests of the interior to the coast, or as marauders from the park of Gordon Castle. Roe-deer are pretty numerous. Hares are most abundant everywhere, and rabbits on the river side. Foxes, polecats, weasels, notwithstanding the exertions of the game-keepers for their destruction, are also numerous. Badgers are not rare. Otters, once very numerous, still frequent the rocks of the Orchil, and the margin of the river. A hedgehog, the only one ever seen here, was lately found on the river bank. Rats are a perfect nuisance, and, of late, the large grey rat has found its way from the coast. Water-rats, with round heads and short tails, are numerous, burrowing in embankments and the sides of mill ponds. Hawks of various kinds are very plentiful, and a few ravens may be seen, which have their domicile in the rocks of Benagen. Rock pigeons are numerous in the glen of the Orchil, and wood pigeons in all the plantations. Rooks visit the parish in large flocks, chiefly from the woods of Gordon Castle and Balveny. The common crow makes also a frequent appearance. Owls, both common and horned, are numerous, and there are the usual abundance and variety of smaller birds. Grouse are plentiful on Benagen and the bounding hills.

Partridges are abundant. Black-game is to be found, and woodcocks are numerous in the early part of winter, or end of autumn. At Arndilly, these have occasionally remained throughout the year, nestling and bringing out their young. A few plovers, snipes, and curlews frequent a large moss in the lower end of the parish, and the few remaining swamps, where also the bittern has been heard and seen.

There is nothing peculiar in the breeds of the domestic cattle. The black-cattle are chiefly Highland or Aberdeenshire. The few sheep are Leicesters, on the arable grounds, and Lintons on the skirts of the hills. There are no goats. The brooks have all a good store of common trout. The river here abounds with salmon in close time, and would naturally abound with them throughout the year, as it did of old; but, during the fishing season, the labours of the fishermen, in the lower part of its course, are now so indefatigable, and the operation of the cruive dike, situated just at the lower extremity of the parish, is now so perfect as a barrier, that comparatively very few fish get up even so far as the fishing grounds here; and the fishery rent of the parish, and of Rothies, has, instead of rising in proportion to the greatly increased value of the commodity, dwindled to a mere trifle. When the water is low, even the Sunday's slap is said to be of little use for the run of the fish, owing to the construction of the dike, and there is a tolerable supply here only when a flood has overtopped the dike, or caused a breach in it, and has in some degree interrupted the fishing below. There is generally, however, a sufficient number of fish to afford excellent sport to the angler. White or sea-trout, and finnocks, are at certain seasons very abundant.

Woods.—A noble forest, chiefly planted by operations of various dates, extends on the estate of Arndilly, to a length of from seven to eight miles, along the banks of the Fiddich and Spey, and stretches far back from these streams up on the slopes, and into the recesses of Benagen. The plantations here consist of Scotch fir, larch, spruce, and various hard-woods. There is a considerable intermixture of natural hard-wood, birch, geen, alder, ash, mountain-ash, and oak, in the lower parts, near the Spey, and a considerable breadth of natural Scotch fir, spreading from the plantations towards the top of the hill. Everywhere, in the valley of the Spey, and at Arndilly as much as anywhere, the Scotch

fir seems to rejoice in the soil and climate, and soon becomes very valuable, and the spread of it here seems likely, at no distant date, if the ground be properly protected from sheep and cattle, to cover the whole western face of Benagen, even to the summit, and make it, indeed, a fine object in the scenery of the country. The larch, here, too, thrives admirably, as indeed does every species of wood usually grown in Scotland. There are three beech trees in the garden of great size. One of them presents a noble pillar in its stem, 17 feet high from the ground, clear of branches, and of a uniform circumference of 11 feet 8 inches, for the whole of this height. A sweet chestnut, also in the garden, has a stem of 13 feet long, and 12 feet round. A birch, near the house, has a circumference of 7 feet, at six feet from the ground.

Further down the river, on the estate of Cairnty, in the angle between the Orchil and the Spey, natural oak and birch cover a considerable extent, and the glen of the Orchil, and the lateral ravines, are thickets of birch. Were this glen inclosed, and planted with oak, &c., it would, at very little loss to the tenants of the pasture, soon become of immense value to the proprietor. Here, too, some plantations of Scotch fir and larch were made about thirty years ago, along the river, which have of late been largely augmented, all in the most thriving state.

In the valley of Boharm, there is, in the upper end, a considerable quantity of natural birch, alder, mountain-ash, and geen, among which, the late proprietor intermixed a large quantity of ash and elm, which have thriven excellently; and lower down, Mr Steuart of Auchlunkart has around his mansion-house a most ornamental plantation, of upwards of eighty Scotch acres of hard wood, with a proportion of larches and spruces, which are gradually thinned out. Ash, oak, elm, beech, &c. &c. thrive here remarkably well, and have already got up to be trees of considerable size, where, only thirty-five years ago, there was little besides rows of ash and plane-tree round the old garden. Mr Steuart has, however, taken great pains with this plantation, great part of the ground having been trenched for it, limed, and sown out with natural grasses. Mr Steuart has also planted, on his hills and moors, in this parish, to the extent of 300 Scotch acres and upwards, Scotch fir, and larches, greatly to the ornament of the country. The Scotch fir here does not thrive so well as on Spey-side, and it is gradually thinned out to give room for the larches, which get on admirably.

Opposite to Auchlunkart, on the Seafield estate, a large plantation has recently been made out, on the lower end of the Benagen range, which already shews well. The summits of the Muldeary hills were planted many years ago with Scotch fir. They look well at a distance, but the wood has come to little size, and requires to be filled up with hard-wood and larch.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

The earliest account that the reporter is acquainted with, both of the parish of Boharm and the suppressed parish of Dundurcos, is in Shaw's History of the Province of Moray. There are no special plans or surveys of the parish. It is possessed by four proprietors, by whose families their respective estates have been held for several generations. William Grant M'Dowal, Esq. has the upper part, consisting of Arndilly, Easter and Wester Gauldwell, Newton, and Auchmadies, together with the peninsula of Aikenway, in Rothes, already mentioned, all lying contiguous in a rich, compact, and beautiful estate. Next, downwards, John Duff, Esq. of Drummuir, has the farm of Knockan, which unites with his extensive possessions in Botriphney. Patrick Stewart, Esq., has the barony of Auchlunkart, in the middle of the parish, and the Earl of Seafield has the lower end of it, comprising the lands of Balnabrieich, Mulben, Muldeary, Cairnty, and Forgie.

Parochial Registers.—The parochial registers commence in 1636, and, except in the times of Charles II. and his successor, and another break, from 1784 to 1800, the session record is very full and complete. The registers of baptisms and marriages, however, are defective before 1800, and there is no register of deaths.

Antiquities.—A stone, which was in the wall of the old church at Arndilly, is now built into the wall of one of the wings of the mansion-house. It has rude figures carved on it. As the reporter has seen another stone, and has heard of a third, having very nearly the same figures upon them, the former having been taken out of the foundation of the old church of Inveravon, and the latter being built into the wall of the abbey of Deer, he has sometimes thought that they may be Druidical memorials, and indicate that our forefathers fixed their first Christian temples on the sites of Druidical worship.

The Castle of Bucharin, now Galval, is an interesting remain, situated on a fine eminence between the brook Aldernie and the Fiddich, having the vale of Balveny stretching out in front; the

vale of Boharm to the east; the lower part of the valley of the Fiddich to the west; and a great extent of well cultivated fields and beautiful woodlands all around. Little of the building is now standing. The former Account states, that, by some excavation among the ruins, some silver spoons (apostle spoons) were found, with round hollow handles, and the mouth or shell completely circular. What became of these relics, the present reporter could never ascertain. Under a stone in the floor of the oratory of the castle, a silver ring was lately found, having a small shield fixed upon it, which exhibited two martial figures. This is now at Arndilly.

Both record and tradition inform us, that, in very early times, there was a bridge over the Spey, near the influx of the Orchil. It appears to have been chiefly of wood, and calculated only for the passage of pedestrians and horses. Where tradition says it crossed the river, the water is very deep close to the rock on the east side, which served for one of the abutments; but this great depth extends but a little way out from the rock, and then the stream shallows to the western bank. Hence one long stretch, not beyond the powers of the largest timber of the country would suffice for getting over the deeper water, and then the progress westward would be comparatively easy by means of supports from the bottom; and such, according to tradition, was the nature of the structure. If liable to injury by a flood, or to decay by time, it could be easily repaired or replaced by the funds allocated for the purpose. This bridge was, for many ages, the only passage of the kind across this large, rapid, and dangerous river, and must have been of great consequence to the whole of the north. Its first erection has been ascribed to the Romans in their progress under Severus, and it is known to have been in existence after the Reformation. It is conjectured that the Reformation having terminated the religious establishment connected with it (to be afterwards mentioned), the bridge thus deprived of means for repair or restoration yielded to decay soon thereafter, or was finally swept away by a flood. Not a vestige of its ruins has been visible for many years. A ferry-boat was substituted for it, and the passage of the river, still very important, came to be called by the anomalous name of "the boat of bridge," while the farms in the neighbourhood still retained their former appellations of Bridgetown of Spey and Upper Briglands. After a lapse of about 250 years, the boat has, in its turn, given place to another bridge, which was

erected a few years ago at the same spot, at the expense of the Honourable Colonel Grant for the Earl of Seafield, Richard Wharton Duff, Esq. of Orton, and Patrick Steuart, Esq. of Auchlunkart, and chiefly in consequence of the exertions of this latter gentleman. It is on the suspension principle, on a plan by Captain Brown, and cost about L.3500. Its span is 235 feet. The towers are lofty structures, of ashlar granite. The toll-house, of polished freestone, is remarkably handsome. Under the authority of the Banffshire Turnpike Act, a very moderate pontage is exacted, little more than sufficient to keep the bridge in repair; but the gentlemen who have so liberally stepped forward with the funds for it will eventually be well repaid, by the increased value of the land on both sides of the river. Since the erection of the bridge of Fochabers, six miles below, and Craigellachie, six miles above, the passage of the river here is not of such general importance as it once was; but the accommodation afforded by this bridge to the public is still very great, and to the districts in the neighbourhood it is invaluable.

Connected with the ancient structure, and on the Boharm side of the river, there was a religious establishment called “the Hospital of St Nicholas at the Bridge of Spey.” This seems to have derived its origin from a gift of “Muriel de Pollock, heiress of Rothies, in the beginning of the thirteenth century, of her estate of Inverorkil,” (where the bridge was built), “to God, the Virgin, and St Nicholas, in pure alms, for the support of a house there for the reception of poor passengers.” (See Shaw *in loco*, and Appendix, No. 2.) Shaw gives also, from the Chartulary of Moray, the deeds by which Andrew Bishop of Moray, about the same time, granted to this hospital the church of Rothies with its pertinents, and by which Alexander II., A. D. 1232, granted a provision for a chaplain here. Shaw also mentions a grant to the hospital of the lands of Aikenway by Walterus de Moravia.

The ruins of the buildings of this establishment remained in considerable extent, till cleared away for the approach to the present bridge, when many human bones were disinterred; but no other article of curiosity. It is presumed, that, at the Reformation, the lands were resumed by the heirs of the original donors, or taken possession of by the neighbouring proprietors.

Modern Buildings.—Of modern buildings there is nothing worth notice but the bridge just mentioned, and the mansion-houses of Arndilly and Auchlunkart. The former is chiefly remarkable for

its noble situation on the bank of the Spey, in a recess of Benagen, which rises steep on three sides crowned with wood, having the river in front spreading out into a broad pool, with the fine plains and rising woodlands of Rothes on the opposite bank, and the lofty Belinnes closing the prospect at five or six miles distance. Auchlunkart House is a most commodious mansion, on the pleasant bank of a brook, in the middle of the plantations already mentioned. A Grecian colonnade ornaments the front, and adds to ornament the important utility of a covered portico. A conservatory in the same style gives its very tasteful decoration to the south front, and communicates with the drawing-room.

There are three meal-mills, each with a drying-kiln; three saw-mills, two of them fitted up with circular saws; ten threshing-mills, half of which are driven by water, and the rest by horses.

III.—POPULATION.

| | | |
|--|------|-----|
| The population in 1801 was | 1161 | |
| 1811, . | 1190 | |
| 1821, . | 1206 | |
| 1831, . | 1385 | |
| Yearly average of births for last seven years, | . | 40 |
| marriages, | . | 7 |
| Number of families, | . | 296 |
| of inhabited houses, | . | 293 |
| of houses uninhabited or now building, | . | 4 |

Persons insane, none; fatuous, 4; blind, 2; deaf and dumb, none.

The whole population is rural. So far as can be ascertained there has been little change upon its numbers, for many years past. Towards the end of last century, it was somewhat diminished by the enlargement of farms, but this has been since more than compensated by the increase of cottages along the new lines of road, and by the settlement of crofters in the wastes. During the present century, the population has been steadily though slowly on the rise.*

Two of the four proprietors are resident; and one gentleman

* In the population table prefixed to seventeenth volume of the former Statistical Report, there is a great mistake, the occurrence of which affords a strong proof of the necessity for great accuracy and attention in statistical inquiries. The population of Boharm is there given as amounting, in 1755, by Dr Webster's inquiries, to 835, and in 1794, by the minister's report, to 1294, and the difference is stated as absolute increase, the fact not being adverted to, that in the interval the annexation from Dundurcos had taken place, bringing with it upwards of 500 additional population. There was in truth a decrease in the Boharm amount of Dr Webster's return, instead of an increase. The same mistake appears in the generally correct and valuable Agricultural Survey of Banffshire, where this annexed Elginshire population figures as swelling an increase in Banffshire.

of landed property in another parish has his residence here. There are no other inhabitants of independent fortune.

The people are very intelligent, thrifty, and good bargain makers. Considering the distance of many from church, they attend public worship with commendable regularity. The lower orders have certainly much improved in morality since the suppression of smuggling—a tempting employment—for which the parish had great facilities.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.—In consequence of the want of any thing like a complete plan of the extensive estate of Arndilly, it has been found impossible to give the full table of extents required under this head. From such plans as there are of detached portions of that estate, and from the information furnished by the proprietor and tenants, the extent of the arable ground upon it, deducting the portion in the parish of Rothies, the rate of rent per arable acre, and the extent of improveable ground have been ascertained in a tolerably close approximation to the truth, and are so added in the table below to these particulars, as exhibited on the plans of the other properties in the parish. But of the large number of acres under wood, in green pasture, and in heath upon Arndilly, the information obtained is quite insufficient for an accurate state; and hence the *parochial* extents of these cannot be given.

| | |
|--|-------|
| Imperial acres cultivated on Arndilly estate, | 1512 |
| Auchlunkart do. | 1401 |
| Knockan do. | 126 |
| Earl of Seafield's do. | 1700 |
| | <hr/> |
| Total, | 4739 |
| Imperial acres that might be profitably taken from the waste into cultivation, | 600 |
| in undivided common, | None |

Rent of Land.—Average rent per imperial acre, including rights of pasturage more or less extensive belonging to each farm, 18s. 7d.

Wages, &c.—Good ploughmen per half year, in summer, L.6, 10s., in winter, L.6; second do. do., in summer, L.4, 10s., in winter, L.3, 15s.; cattle boys, in summer, L.1, 10s., in winter, L.1, 10s.; women for farm work, in summer, L.2, 10s., in winter, L.1, 10s.; labourers per day, in summer, 1s. 8d., in winter, 1s. 4d.; wrights do., in summer, 2s., in winter, 1s. 6d.; masons, do., in summer, 2s. 6d., in winter, 1s. 6d.

The above wages for the half year are given along with board and lodging, those by the day are given as full payment.

Men engaged by the day for moss work, hay cutting, or har-

vest, with victuals, 1s. 6d.; women, 1s. Men engaged for the harvest season, whether short or protracted, with victuals, L.2, 5s.; women, L.1, 10s. Women, per day, planting or hoeing potatoes, hoeing turnips, &c. &c., without victuals, 8d.; hay cutting, per imperial acre, 1s. 9d.; corn cutting, scything, gathering, binding, and stooking, per acre, 4s. 6d.; corn cutting by the hook, per threave, of two stooks each, twelve sheaves oats, 2½d.; barley and wheat, 3d. Trenching moor ground, of average difficulty, twelve inches deep, per Scotch fall, 6d.; drain casting, three feet deep, one foot wide at bottom, per Scotch ell, 1½d.; turf diking, with ditch for enclosing planting, per Scotch ell, 2½d.; stone diking, materials laid down by employer, double dike, four feet high, with rough coping; per ell, 6d.; single dike, or faced against earth bank, per ell, 5d. Paling, three-barred, sufficient for cattle fences on grass fields, per piece or flake, three yards long, wood and workmanship included, 6d. Mason work, materials laid down by employer, per rood of six yards square, L.1, 10s.; do. mason affording materials, L.4, 5s. Smith work, exclusive of iron, per lb. for fine work, 4½d.; do. plain work, 1½d.; rimming a pair of wheels, 5s.; set of horse shoes, including iron, work, and nails, 3s.—Utensils: box cart, ordinary size, complete, L.7; wooden plough, full ironed, L.3, 10s.; pair of harrows, full-mounted, but without tines, 18s.; yoke and swingle trees, full mounted, 7s. 6d.; wheel-barrow, with iron wheel, L.1, 2s. 6d.; pair of cart wheels, ironed, L.3, 10s.; full set of harness for one-horse cart and plough, L.4; iron plough, complete, L.3, 10s.—Produce: quarter of oats, without fodder, L.1; quarter of barley, do. L.1, 5s.; fodder of each quarter of oats, 6s. 6d.; do. of barley, 5s.; hay, per stone of twenty-two lbs., 7d.; oatmeal, per boll of ten stones imperial, 16s.; potatoes, per boll of eight old corn firloths, supposed about five and a-half cwt. imperial, 8s.; turnips, when sold per Scotch acre, L.5; butter, per lb. imperial, 6d.; cheese, per imperial stone, fourteen lbs., 3s. 6d.; eggs per dozen, 5d.; sweet milk per Scotch pint, 2d.; skimmed milk per do. 1d.; ordinary three year old stot, well wintered and fit for grass, L.6; ordinary three year old quey, do. L.4, 10s.; good cow, four years old, L.6, 10s.; ewe and lambs of English breed, L.1, 10s.; hill ewe and lamb, 12s.; hill wether, four years old, 12s.; weaned pig, six weeks old, 5s.; porkers about eight months old, not exceeding six stones imperial, per imperial stone, 4s.; hens, each 10d.; chickens, each 4d.; ducks, each 10d.

Servants.—Servants are engaged universally for the half year, from 26th May to 22d November, and from 22d November to 26th May, except what additional troops are required in harvest, who are engaged for whatever time the harvest may last. The men servants, whether married or single, as well as the women servants, always live in the families of their employers, those that are married renting houses either in the neighbourhood, or in the nearest village for their wives and families. It would perhaps be a considerable improvement, if there were more married men servants, and these placed in cottages upon the farms. One great evil of the present system is the constant recurrence of trouble and expense to the masters, and the danger of dissipation to the servants, in making new engagements at the feeing markets at the end of every half year.

Labourers.—Much farm-work, cutting and filling drains, clearing ditches, turning dung, &c. is done by contract with labourers. Sometimes hay is cut by contract per acre, and more rarely grain. The labourers have generally abundance of employment.

Harvesting.—Comparatively little of the cutting in harvest is now done by the sickle, the use of which has been for the most part superseded by the scythe. Each mode has its advantages. The shearing is the neatest work, and more conservative of the grain, but the scything is cheaper as to work, speedier as to time, and more bountiful of fodder. It also admits of earlier stacking, a point of great consequence in such a climate, and if the people are tolerably expert in the use of the instrument, and in the operation of gathering the sheaf after it, it makes much neater work than any one would imagine who has not seen it in employment. The difference of expense per Scotch acre, between cutting by the sickle and by the scythe, may be reckoned as between 10s. and 5s. 6d. An evil consequence of the general employment of the scythe is, that it has interfered most materially with the harvest gains of the aged and infirm, who are now almost wholly banished from the fields. It may be here mentioned, that Mr Stewart of Auchlunkart having lately introduced the short-handled scythe for cutting the grass in his plantations, the servants and labourers all around have already universally adopted it, and a long-handled scythe is now nowhere to be seen in this quarter. The workmen say, that, with the short-handled instrument, they can cut about one-sixth more per day, and this with less fatigue to themselves.

Horses.—Horses of suitable size and strength are kept in the proportion of a pair for every thirty-five Scotch acres, and the parish rears nearly as many as suffice for its supply.

Cattle and Sheep.—The black-cattle are rather of a small size, which there have been few attempts to raise, as it is found very suitable to the climate and pasture.

The stots and spare queys are generally sold off, when about three years old, in the summer markets of the neighbourhood, and, at that age, the stots are in great request for winterers in the feeding districts. The soil, for the most part, not being productive of heavy crops of turnips, and the markets for fat cattle being rather distant, what turnips are raised are chiefly given to the milk cows and rising stock, and are seldom applied to fattening for the butcher, except on some of the larger farms.

Sheep, as before stated, are few in number, not above 400 in all; about the half of these are Lintons, kept on the skirts of the hills; another hundred are also Lintons, kept on old grass by the two resident heritors for the supply of their own tables; and the remainder are of the large English breed, kept on the farms chiefly for the sake of their wool.

Swine.—Swine are kept in considerable numbers. The breeding stocks are maintained at the corn-mills, and at a few of the larger farms. Two feeding pigs, at least, are kept at every farm-steading, and one or two at each of the cottages. These are fed for six or eight months, till they attain about the weight of six stones each, when they are sold to the curers in the neighbouring town of Keith for exportation to London. Even at the present low prices, a large sum of money is thus brought into the parish.

Poultry.—Common barn-door fowls and ducks are numerous at every dwelling, but there are few turkeys or geese, except at the barn-yards of the mansion-houses. The eggs of the common fowls are bought up by the country merchants, and exported to the London market, along with the spare butter from the dairies. Eggs alone bring in a sum of about £500.

System of Husbandry.—The prevailing system of husbandry is a six-course shift. The grass ground is broken up for oats; a second crop is taken, which is called the awald (or one-fold) crop; then the field is fallowed,—a naked fallow, dunged in spring, where the land is wet,—turnips and potatoes, with occasionally some tares, where it is tolerably dry. Barley or oats are sown the fourth year with grass seeds. From half the extent so sown

out, hay is made the fifth year, and the other half is either cut green for house-feeding, or depastured by the horses and cows. The sixth year is always pasture. Taking all circumstances of soil, situation, climate, and extra pasture into account, this is perhaps as good a rotation as could be adopted ; though another year in pasture, particularly on the lighter soils, or rather a proportion of these devoted to permanent pasture, might seem an improvement. In some few instances, the five-course shift has been introduced, taking only one crop of oats at the commencement, but this rotation is not a favourite, and, indeed, the soil being generally a stiff moist clay, the second crop of oats is always the more productive. Of late, wheat has been attempted on part of the best ground, in consequence of the very low price of oats, being substituted for the oats after ley, which is top-dressed for it, or for the barley after potatoes or bare fallow ; but though it has hitherto paid well, it is, unquestionably, an unsuitable and precarious crop for such a climate. The soil is well adapted for lint, but it is not considered a remunerating crop ; a small patch, however, is almost always sown on each farm for domestic purposes. Tares were, a few years ago, introduced for part of the fallow or green crop, to be cut green for the horses, and a small portion of them for this purpose is now sown on the greater number of the farms. The production of turnips is greatly on the increase, in consequence of the use of bone-manure, introduced since 1829, but very sparingly used till 1833, when the palpable success of the few original experimenters led to its more general application. It bids fair in a few years, if the supply can be continued at its present cost, of about 2s. 9d. per bushel, to become the universal manure for turnips, and to banish bare fallow altogether, except in very wet fields. At first, the bones were applied in large quantities, to serve instead of the farm dung for the rotation, and this is still the case in some instances, about thirty bushels being thus given to the Scots acre, strewed in the bottom of the turnip drills ; but what is now the more common practice, is to dibble in the bones upon the top of the drills, in holes about eight inches asunder, giving only from eight to ten bushels per acre, which is found quite sufficient to raise the turnip crop, and then, in the following spring, the farm manure saved from the turnips is given to the barley and grass seeds, much to the improvement of the barley and hay crops, and at a very trifling increase of expense. In either way, the stock of manure is greatly enlarged, and the

advantage is very considerable. Within these few years, a farmer from Aberdeenshire has introduced the practice now followed by some others, of growing turnip seeds on a large scale; the turnips are transplanted into the field for green crop; this practice is troublesome and expensive, but is said to pay well. Oats are unquestionably the staple grain. They are raised of excellent quality, while the barley and the small produce of wheat are generally inferior. The value of the oat-straw, too, for fodder, where so much depends upon cattle, is so much more, as to be held to compensate even for the present inferiority of the price of the grain. They are driven in large quantities to the various harbours on the coast, about ten or twelve miles distant from the centre of the parish, for exportation to London and Leith, and a considerable quantity is sent to the Elgin district for meal. The little quantity of wheat is sold at Elgin, and barley finds a ready market at the various distilleries, of which there are four in the neighbourhood of Craigellachie, and two at Keith.

Lime brought from the large calcining establishments in the parishes of Keith and Mortlach, or calcined from the lime rock within the parish, is abundantly applied as manure, and is considered essential to successful husbandry. On the old arable ground, known to have been limed before, a fresh dose, of about thirty provincial bolls of shells, equal to ninety-six bushels imperial, and producing, of powdered lime, 240 bushels, is given to each acre once in every currency of a lease of nineteen years, and as near as possible to the commencement of the lease. On ground newly taken in from the waste, as much as 400 bushels imperial of powdered lime is given, and on old arable, not limed before, the first application is about 320 bushels imperial. On the arable fields, it is commonly applied during the process of fallowing, or along with the grass seeds. On newly improved lands, it is given before they are put under their first crop. The price per provincial boll of shells is about 1s. 6d.

The farm-buildings have of late been much improved both in appearance and accommodation, particularly on the property of Auchlunkart; but, in too many instances, they are still mean and inconvenient. There are few permanent enclosures either by stone-dikes or hedges, except in the neighbourhood of the mansion houses, and more would be very desirable, as leading to longer continuance of the dry fields in pasture; but the want is less felt, that wood is so abundant and cheap for paling, the use of which for temporary enclosures, is very common.

In this parish, the spirit of improvement awakened, about forty years ago, by David M'Dowal Grant, Esq., husband of the late proprietrix of Arndilly, and much encouraged by him during the continuance of his connection with the property, has since accomplished much, particularly since 1808, when the country was opened by turnpike roads. Patrick Steuart, Esq. of Auchlunkart commenced a very spirited course as an improver soon after his succession to the estate in 1800, and has since persevered with most praiseworthy energy and most profitable success. A considerable deal has also been done on the Seafield property, and much is in immediate contemplation. Throughout the parish, the old arable fields have been much dried by ditches and drains, and, having been freed of unsightly baulks and bogs, have been properly laid together, limed, and brought under a regular rotation. The swampy bottoms of the valleys have been drained, and are now almost entirely converted into productive lands, and many acres of moor ground have been reclaimed, partly by the plough, and partly by trenching, which is considered the preferable mode, and is found, on the whole, not more expensive.

In such a report as this, the fact surely deserves a place, that Mr Steuart, succeeding to an arable extent in this parish of 812 Scotch acres, has, besides all his plantations already noticed, added to that extent, either by his own direct operations or by his tenantry, the extent of 300 Scotch acres, and has 120 more, at this present time, in course of improvement; so that, in the course of two or three years hence, the total number of arable Scotch acres on the estate of Auchlunkart in this parish will be advanced from 812 to 1232. Mr Steuart has been equally energetic and successful in the other parishes into which his property extends.

Table of Produce.—

| | | | | | | |
|--|------------------|---|---|----------|----|---|
| Grain, viz. oats with fodder, 5025 at L.1, 6s. 6d. | | | | L.6658 | 2 | 6 |
| barley do. 1021½ at L.1, 10s. | | | | 1518 | 15 | 0 |
| | Total grain, | | | L.8176 | 17 | 6 |
| Turnips and potatoes, | | | | 1600 | 0 | 0 |
| Hay and cut grass, | | | | 2137 | 10 | 0 |
| Pasture arable lands, | L.1377 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| not arable, | 470 | 2 | 6 | | | |
| | | | | 1847 | 2 | 6 |
| Gardens and orchards, | | | | 80 | 0 | 0 |
| Annual thinnings of woods, | | | | 300 | 0 | 0 |
| Fisheries, | | | | 15 | 0 | 0 |
| Game, | | | | 100 | 0 | 0 |
| | * Total produce, | | | L.14,256 | 10 | 0 |

* The data on which the above table has been made up, in so far as it relates to the

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

There is no market-town or village. Keith, at the distance of six miles east from the centre of the parish, is the nearest market-town, and the village of Rothies is about the same distance in the opposite direction. Fochabers, close to the lower extremity, is about seven miles from the church, and Dufftown of Mortlach, and Charlestown of Aberlour, near the upper extremity, are each about eight miles from the centre. Elgin is thirteen miles distant.

A daily post passes through the parish on the route from Keith to Craigellachie, and there is a sub-office near the centre. One line of turnpike road, admirably formed and kept, passes from Keith to the suspension bridge, opening communication thence to Elgin, Rothies, Garmach, &c. The length of this road within the parish is four and a half miles. Another line of turnpike, called the Boharm road, branches off from the Great North Road halfway between Keith and Fochabers, and passes up the valley till near the upper end, where it divides into two branches, one leading to Mortlach, and the other to Aberlour, Grantown, &c. with an offset to the bridge of Craigellachie. The length of this road, including the branch to Mortlach, is, within this parish, about twelve miles. This road is in a state of great disrepair, and one of the bridges, destroyed by the flood of 1829, has not been replaced, so that for two or three years no tolls have been exigible on the line. This is understood to be owing to some dispute among the trustees about a debt contracted for the original formation of the road. It is much to be wished that this matter were

agricultural produce of the parish, are the results of much and very careful inquiry and observation, and are as follows, viz. that of the 3761 Scotch arable acres contained in the parish, nearly one-sixth, or about 611 acres, may be held as unsuitable for the rotation to which the rest are subjected, as before detailed, being thin poor fields, hill sides, moss-edges, and the like, generally kept in poor pasture, and only occasionally broken up for very poor crops. This portion is taken as pasture at 15s. per Scotch acre. The remaining 3150, estimated as under the six-course rotation, give two-sixths of their number for oats, out of ley and awald crop; taken at three and a half quarters of produce per acre at L.1, 6s. 6d. per quarter; also for oats, about one-half of another one-sixth, the shift after fallow, say 300 acres at four and a half quarters at same price. The other part of the shift after fallow is in barley, say 225 acres at four and a half quarters at L.1, 10s. per quarter. The sixth for fallow and green crop, 525 acres, gives 400 acres for turnips and potatoes at L.4,—the rest bare fallow. The sixth in new grass gives 300 acres in hay at L.5, 5s. per acre, and 225 acres cut green or depastured at L.2, 10s. each, and the after crop is reckoned at 10s. per acre. The last sixth, in second year's grass, is given as pasture at L.1, 5s. per acre.

The unarable pasture, burn sides, hills, glens, &c. is stated at the average rate of 2s. 6d. for each acre of the arable land to which it is annexed. The lesser articles of produce, wheat, flax, tares, &c. have been considered as only displacing the staple articles of equal value. The produce stated is the average of ordinary years; but seasons occasionally occur, as in 1816 and 1817, when the grain is nearly a total failure.

speedily settled, that the road might be again put in proper condition, for not only is the disrepair inconvenient already, especially in winter, but it is always increasing, and must soon terminate in the complete ruin of the present roadway on one of the most important lines in the county.

Ecclesiastical State.—The church is situated as nearly as possible in the centre of the parish. It stands on the boundary line between the old parish and the annexation from Dundurcos,—the decret of suppression and annexation having provided for a new church and manse in this situation. It was built in 1793, and is in good repair. It affords accommodation for about 700. There are, strictly speaking, no free sittings, the whole sittings being divided among the farms, and annexed to them; but there are no seat-rents, and all are well accommodated, in consequence of all holding some land, a farm, a croft, or a kail-yard. Though the church is situated as conveniently for the general body of the people as perhaps it could be, yet, in a parish of such length, and where the population is so scattered, one church cannot be convenient for all, while the numbers of those most inconvenienced are so few in their respective localities as to prevent all idea of remedying the evil by additional churches within the parish. One or two of these remote districts might be accommodated by churches or preaching-stations erected in similar detached corners of the adjoining parishes, by combining them with which suitable congregations might be formed.

The manse was built in 1811. It is large, but very far from commodious. Though built in a very damp situation, which must soon impair it, it is still in pretty good condition, having received some trifling repairs in 1818.

The glebe is about 28 Scotch acres in extent, of which 18 were arable at the time of the designation, poor thin land; and the rest have been improved at an enormous expense by the late and present incumbents. It was given at the time when the church was removed, in excambion for the old glebe of eleven acres, which now rents at L.14. The present glebe would perhaps let for L.25 or L.30; but this increase of glebe value is but a poor compensation for the outlay which has produced it.

The stipend is, by surrender of teinds in 1817, L.168,—55 B. 1 P. 2 L. oatmeal, and 28½ bolls barley payable in kind, and 11¼ bolls victual, *i. e.* half meal half barley, payable by the county fiars, without any separate allowance for communion elements.

There is no chapel of ease, Government church, or Dissenting meeting-house of any description. All the parishioners, except about 20, belong to the Established Church, and the Episcopalian part of the exception, amounting to one-half of it, attend worship generally in the parish church. The other half of the exception consists of one family of Roman Catholics, 5 in number, and 5 Seceders, who worship at Fochabers or Keith.

Divine service in the church is generally well attended, always so when the state of the weather and roads allows the more distant parishioners to walk so far. The average number of communicants is 510.

The annual average amount for the past five years of the whole collections in church is L.35, of which one collection, averaging L.2, is given to some of the Assembly's four Schemes, and one, amounting to L.5, is appropriated to a fund for procuring medical attendance to the poor at home, or conveying them to that most useful charity, Gray's Hospital at Elgin. About L.5, 10s. is required to pay the salaries of session-clerk, precentor, and kirk-officer, and incidental expenses, and the whole of the rest is paid over to the poor's box.

Education.—There are three schools, besides two sewing schools for girls, and two or three dame schools for infants. The parish school is situated close to the church in the centre of the parish, and one of the other two in each extremity. One of the sewing schools is in the upper division, the other in the lower.

The parish schoolmaster has the maximum salary, the legal accommodations, and a share of the Dick Bequest. His average amount of fees paid is L.17 per annum. The teacher of the school in the lower end has a salary of L.5 from the Earl of Seafield. The teacher in the upper end has, from Arndilly, the accommodation of a comfortable house and a good garden, but has no salary. The sewing school in the lower end is altogether on the teacher's own account. The one in the upper end is supported by a salary of L.5 from the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge, and by an endowment of five bolls of oatmeal, with a free house and garden from the family of Arndilly. The fees in these subsidiary schools are so much more paid in other articles of value than in money, that it is impossible to state their amount. The people in general are fully alive to the advantages of education. There are only a few, chiefly aged, persons that cannot write, and the instances are rare, indeed, of inability to read. The sub-

sidiary schools remedy, in some degree, in their respective districts, the evil of remoteness from the parish school ; but they stand greatly in need of better endowments, while there is one district, containing seventeen families, so situated as to have no benefit at least for its younger children from any of the schools, and it is unable to maintain a school within its own bounds.

Literature.—There is one parochial library, managed by a committee of subscribers, containing a tolerable collection of useful and interesting books, and likely to prosper.

Institutions.—There is a parish saving bank, which was instituted in the year 1821, under the management of the minister as cashier, the schoolmaster as accountant, and two or three respectable parishioners as trustees or directors. At first the deposits, considering the small population and general poverty of the district, were large, till they amounted at length to the sum of L.1200. The diminution of the rate of interest some years ago considerably checked the spirit of depositing, and still operates against accumulation ; but the capital still amounts to L.1000, having, for the last three or four years, been neither increased nor diminished, the amount of deposits and accumulating interests on the one hand just balancing drafts and uppayments on the other, each being about L.200 per annum. When an account rises to L.25 it is paid up ; and there are instances of the same individual having been twice paid up in this way. The depositors are chiefly farm servants, unmarried aged females, and parents for small provisions to their children. The institution has been and still is most beneficial both to the temporal interests and the moral welfare of the people. The proprietors could not lay out money to better account, for their own eventual benefit, as well as for the good of their tenantry, than by giving a little to foster savings banks in connection with their estates, by enabling their managers to pay a more tempting rate of interest than can be done without such aid.

Poor.—The average number of poor on the regular roll is 21, of whom an average of two being bedrid or infirm, receive the value of a peck of meal, and 1s. 3d., in all about 2s. 6d. per week, and the remaining nineteen receive about 5s. each, at each of four distributions in the year, besides occasional supplies when necessary. Besides this, there is what is called the occasional roll, containing on an average the names of 12 poor people, who receive, as the money may be spared among them, about 10s. each yearly. Funer-

ral expenses for those on the regular roll are allowed at the rate of L.1 each. Females of the poorer class advanced in years, or otherwise disabled from earning their subsistence, form now unquestionably the most destitute portion of the rural population, as the rate of pay for spinning flax by the hand-wheel, on which such persons used formerly to depend, has been reduced by the competition of machinery so low, that its remuneration for the most sedulous industry is insufficient for the barest subsistence, and thus there is little temptation for engaging in the work. For the benefit of such females, the reporter some years ago suggested, and still carries on, a plan which may be here detailed, because not only has it been found most beneficial for its object, but its simplicity of operation is such that no dread of trouble attending it need prevent its adoption in other quarters. At the commencement of each winter, a small charitable work fund is formed, chiefly by the liberal donations of Mrs Steuart, Auchlunkart, and a list of some fifteen or twenty of the class in question, the most deserving objects of a little kindly assistance, is made out. It is intimated to these, that if they procure flax for themselves, which they always do from some of the country merchants, or in the neighbouring towns, and gain the manufacturer's wages for spinning it, they will for so many months of the winter be paid an additional sum of 4d. for each 8d. so gained, on their application to some one of two or three agents of the charity appointed throughout the parish, to whom they just produce a certificate from the merchant who has received the spun lint back from them, of the amount he has paid them in the preceding week or month. This additional payment or premium brings up the pay for a week's work to a week's subsistence, and so supplies the necessary stimulus, so that with very little trouble to any body a charity of L.6 is made to enlarge itself to L.18, and to carry the happiness and blessings of industry along with it.

Poor's Funds.—The annual average amount of collections paid over to the poor's box, is L.22, 10s.; interest of L.200 lent by the kirk treasurer on heritable security, L.8; one-half rent of Bede rigs of Dundurcos, 10s.; average amount of income from other sources, penalties, donations, &c. L.12; total, L.43. Besides occasional donations, the heritors, whenever there is an extraordinary demand, are never backward to supply contributions in proportion to their respective valued rents, to prevent encroachment on the stock of the kirk-session. There is a general reluctance still

to apply for parochial aid, but from various causes it is gradually wearing out.

Inns, &c.—There are 4 licensed victualling houses or inns. Perhaps this number is required on such a length of road, but then the whole four are spirit-shops also, and by far the greater part of the business is the sale of spirits drunk on the premises. Hence each of them is unquestionably a nuisance in its neighbourhood, the habitual resort of the profligate, and the seducing tempter of the unwary. The best that can be said of them, if they are all necessary, is that they are necessary evils. Were the regulations of law enforced as to hours, &c. the evils might be somewhat abated; but this cannot be expected in a district so remote from police.

Fuel.—The general fuel is turf and peat, procured easily in the lower part of the parish from an extensive moss, but with great difficulty in the middle and upper parts, from mosses on the hills almost exhausted. Where, however, turf is scarce, wood is abundant and cheap. Coals are used by the resident proprietors, and partially by the more substantial tenants. They are brought from Port-Gordon, on the Banffshire coast, at a medium distance of twelve miles, or from Garmach, at the mouth of the Spey, at a medium distance of fourteen miles. The price of the imperial barrel at the shore is about 1s. 4d. and the cartage of a barrel 6d. but a large proportion is brought up by the returning carts, which have carried down grain for exportation. Where easiest procured, the cart load of peats of the size generally taken on the farmer's carts, is about 1s., exclusive of carriage. In use, this is equal to a barrel of coals, but the carriage is more expensive when there is otherwise full employment for the horses. Where turf is more difficult to be procured, and of worse quality, the inhabitants would in fact pay much less for coals and wood, and be more comfortable with these, but the turf ashes are prized for manure, and the expense, which consists in labour alone, is not sufficiently estimated.

Drawn up in 1834.

ADDENDA.

THE following addenda bring the foregoing report up to the present date.

1. By the census of 1841, the population of the parish was found to have considerably diminished since 1831, being now only 1261, or 124 less. The causes of this are, an enlargement of farms on the Seafield property, the pressure of a series of late

years and bad crops, and an increased disposition for emigration to the colonies.

2. Notwithstanding the unfavourable character of the seasons of late, the progress of agricultural improvement has been steadily going on. Furrow or frequent draining has been introduced, in a few instances, with most beneficial effects. Bone manure, notwithstanding its greatly increased price, is in almost universal use for turnips, greatly enlarging the production of this useful article. It is now very often applied along with a small quantity of dung. On the Seafield estate, many of the improvements in contemplation at the date of the report have been executed, and more are in progress. The farms have been properly arranged and subdivided, and some of them substantially enclosed. Several useful roads have been made. Drainage has been carried on on a very extensive plan, and with most beneficial effects; and many plantations have been made, which will soon afford both shelter and ornament to the district.

3. The reporter's plan for supplying the wants of aged females, by the medium of their own industry, has lately failed; not from any want of funds, but from the impossibility of procuring the materials of industry, there being no such thing now as flax given out for hand-spinning in this part of the country. This class of our poor population are perhaps the most destitute of all, now that the domestic manufactures, which used to sustain them, are so much superseded; and their case, for some suitable provision, is strongly recommended to the consideration of the charitable.

4. The incommodiousness of the manse has been wholly remedied by a considerable addition, and a small change of internal arrangements, most handsomely granted last year by the heritors as a personal favour to the present incumbent, for which he is happy to have this public opportunity of recording his thanks.

5. The deficient bridge, on the Boharm road, has been replaced by the Earl of Seafield, and, instead of a temporary wooden bridge over the Fiddich, a very handsome structure of stone has been erected at an expense of L.450, supplied by the liberality of the gentlemen in the neighbourhood. It was opened in the end of last year. The road has also received some slight repairs, and is kept passable by the several gentlemen through whose properties it extends, but it is still in a very bad state, demanding a thorough repair, so as to permit tolls again to be raised for its support.

June 16, 1842.

PARISH OF MARNOCH.*

PRESBYTERY OF STRATHBOGIE, SYNOD OF MORAY.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—**ABERCHIRDER**, the original name of this parish, was, no doubt, taken from Sir David Aberkerder, Thane of Aberkerder, who lived about the year 1400, and possessed a great part of it. He is mentioned as paying revenue to the Bishopric of Moray; his daughter was married to Sir Robert Innes, brother to John Innes, for seven years Bishop of Moray previous to 1414. The present name is derived from St Marnoch. A well near the manse is called the Saint's Well, and another, at no great distance, the Lady's Well. There is a village in the parish, containing 800 inhabitants, still called Aberchirder. Some say this word signifies the mouth or opening of the moss, and that this place was so called from its being near the edge of a large moss.

The Earl of Fife is patron. The right of patronage connected with the property of Kinardy was purchased by the late Earl James.

Extent and Boundaries.—The parish is of very irregular shape. It lies along the north bank of the river Doveron for about 6 miles, and extends backwards from the river to the distance of 5 or 6 miles. Some of the extreme points are 8 miles apart. It is bounded on the south by the Doveron, on the opposite side of which lie the parish of Inverkeithny and part of Rothiemay; on the west, by Rothiemay; on the north, by Ordiquhill, Boyndie, Banff, and Alvah; and on the east, by Forglen. The superficial extent is about 34 square miles.

Topographical Appearances, &c.—The southern parts of the parish are beautifully situated, have a fine exposure, and consist of early fertile soil. Some of the haugh ground is superior. There are several most delightful spots along the river-side. The Inch line on the property of Edward Ellice, Esq. of Ardmellie, is remark-

* Communicated by the Rev. D. Henry.

able for a variety of very large and beautiful trees. Some larches in particular have here attained their largest dimensions. They must have been planted about eighty years ago, soon after the larch was first introduced into Scotland. The mansion-house on this property, occupied by William Stronach, Esq. commands an extensive view of the valley of the Doveron. The grounds are regularly laid out, and are in the highest state of cultivation. The steep-wooded hill of Ardmellie is the highest ground in the parish. The manse stands at the foot of it on the bank of the river, at the junction of the Burn of Crombie. The church is on a rising ground at a little distance, in the middle of a Druidical circle, two large stones of which now only remain. The church-yard lies at the river-edge,—a site of peculiar interest and beauty. It contains several monuments of some architectural elegance. The most remarkable is that of “*Reverendus et Pius Geo. Meldrum de Crombie, et quondam de Glass, Præco.*” He was Episcopal minister or bishop of Glass, and laird of Crombie in this parish; died 1692, aged seventy-six. The ornaments on the tomb are very rich and well carved. There is a vault attached to it; and, in a recess in the centre of the elevated part of the monument, there is a half-length figure of the bishop, with cap on, and full sacerdotal robes, the hands holding a book, and altogether an uncommonly rich and highly-finished piece of architecture, in freestone from Elgin. A portion of the old church still remains in the grave-yard. It had been used as a Roman Catholic, Episcopal, and Presbyterian parish church in succession. There is a very neat vault, erected by public subscription in 1831, in which the bodies of the dead are laid for two months previous to being interred. This plan originated in consequence of a grave having been robbed of its dead, which occasioned a great sensation in the parish. The river, a little below this, at the farm of Euchrie, takes several most remarkable turns.—The bridge, built in 1806, is the next object of interest. It consists of two arches, one of which is of a very wide span, and stands high on two opposite rocks. A little below, stands the old tower-looking mansion of Kinardy, on a promontory at the junction of the burn of the same name with the Doveron. Its situation is peculiarly picturesque and commanding. This house is very ancient,—has been built at various periods,—and was, together with much of the property of the parish, held by the Chrichtons of Frendraught, whose chief residence of Frendraught was in the neighbouring parish of Forgue. The river then winds its way towards the church, manse, and

village of Inverkeithny, on the opposite bank, about two miles distant. Here on the Marnoch side is a place called Chapelton, where, no doubt, there had once stood a place of worship. A little lower down are the grounds and mansion-house of Netherdale,—the property of Mrs Rose Innes, second heritor of the parish. The house is modern and handsome. The garden and grounds are beautifully laid out and well wooded. There are beech hedges here, remarkably large and fine specimens. The property, chiefly consisting of several large farms, is very well cultivated.

The middle portion of the parish from west to east is considerably diversified with rising grounds, the summits of most of them being covered with young thriving plantations, which afford shelter and very much improve the appearance of the country. The hollows or straths between are well cultivated, and watered with small burns or rivulets. The soil in some places is dry, but commonly humid and mossy.

On the west side stands the old castle of Crombie, now the property of the Earl of Seafield. It has the appearance of having been a place of some strength. It now consists of three stories, but, like the similar castle of Kinardy, was at one time much higher. It is supposed to be of very ancient date.

In the northern parts of the parish, consisting of the small properties of Barrie, Culvie, Thorax, and the larger one of Auchinderran, the soil, in general, though pretty fertile, is of a mossy nature, the exposure rather unfavourable, there being no wood. Much has been done of late years to improve these properties. In this part of the parish, the only resident proprietor is Robert Ogilvie, Esq. of Culvie.

Hydrography.—There are numerous small rivulets tributary to the Doveron; and springs of different qualities abound in the parish. Most of the springs are strongly impregnated with iron. Several in the lands of Crombie and Auchintoul have been of late discovered, containing sulphur, &c. There are very extensive mosses in the parish, especially on the hill of Crombie, and on the lands of Auchintoul and Auchinderran; these are much resorted to for peats.

Mineralogy.—The rock in the parish is principally granite, of which there are several quarries wrought to a considerable extent. One of these, on the lands of Cluny, of a gray colour, yields the largest and finest post for all sizes of cut granite, equal to any in Scotland. A limestone is also found in Ardmellie. A kiln had been formerly in operation here. The range of granite rock seems

to terminate, and that of a blue limestone seems to commence, about the burn of Kinardy.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Land-owners.—The land-owners in the parish are, William Aitken, Esq. of Auchintoul; Mrs Rose Innes of Netherdale; Earl of Seafield, Crombie, and Crana; Earl of Fife's Trustees, Kinardy; Mrs Chalmers of Cluny; The Right Honourable Ed. Ellice of Ardmellie; Arthur Abercrombie, Esq. of Auchinderran; William Duff, Esq. of Tillydown; Robert Ogilvie, Esq. of Culvie; William Grant, Esq. of Barry; and John Benton, Esq. of Thorax.

Mansion-houses, &c.—Near the centre of the parish stands the mansion-house of Auchintoul, now the property of William Aitken, Esq., the largest proprietor in the parish. This was once the residence and property of General Alexander Gordon, who entered the service of Russia as a cadet, under Peter the Great, and rose to high favour and command in his army. After he retired to his native country, he took a prominent part in the rebellion of 1715, commanded the Highland clans at Sheriffmuir, and conducted their retreat with great skill. He was after this attainted for treason, but escaped by a misnomer, and thus saved his life and property, but was obliged to remain concealed for several years in France, whence he returned in 1724. He wrote in two volumes the history of his "Great" master and friend, was much respected, and died aged eighty-two years: he was buried in the church-yard here, but no memorial marks the spot. His second wife was a daughter of Sir T. Moncrieff of Moncrieff. The house on this property is a large plain building, forming three sides of a square,—one side was built by General Gordon. It has been much improved by the present proprietor; the situation is commanding. The gardens are beautifully walled with dressed granite, and well kept. The hot houses and conservatory are extensive, and there is a very handsome square of most commodious offices. The woods and belts are of considerable extent, and thriving on this property; and within half a mile of the house stands the village of Aberchirder, consisting of three streets, regularly laid out, running parallel to each other, having a large square in the middle, and many excellent substantial houses recently built.

On the east, stands the mansion-house of Cluny, the property of Mrs Chalmers. It is a modern structure, beautifully built of dressed granite in the cottage style. The house was built, and the whole place laid out by the late Mr Chalmers, with great judgment and taste. The whole is in a most complete state,

and the young plantations are very ornamental. This property, along with another in an adjoining parish, was destined by the late Mr Chalmers to the establishment of an hospital in Banff.

Parochial Registers.—The parochial registers are, 1st, book of discipline, commencing in the year 1666, kept regularly, containing also the money transactions of the kirk-session, with regard to the poor; 2d, register of baptisms, commencing in the year 1676, and kept regularly; 3d, register of marriages, continued from 1672 to 1680. There is then a complete blank till 1773, but from that period the registration is regular.

III.—POPULATION.

The population of the parish in 1841 was 2876. The number of families 623, all belonging to the Established Church, with the exception of about 40. Of these, about twelve belong to the Se-cession Church, about ten to the Roman Catholic, and six to the Episcopal church, and about eight to the Baptist communion, all of whom have places of worship in the village.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.—The real rental of the parish is about L.7000. The highest rent of land per acre is L.3, the ordinary rent is from 18s. to L.1, 2s. A considerable portion does not exceed from 12s. to 15s. per acre. It is believed that agriculture has, within the last twenty-five years, by the improvement of waste land, added about one-third to the rental of the parish. Improved breeds of cattle have been introduced in several of the farms, and crossed with the native breeds, with apparent advantage. The new system of drainage has also commenced here.

The lands of Crombie have been much improved of late years by the two enterprising tenants. One of them, Mr Smith, gained a medal from the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland in 1836, for the improvement of waste and other land.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Markets, &c.—In the village, there are regular markets for feeding servants at the terms of Whitsunday and Martinmas. During the winter, there is a weekly grain market on Monday, as also an annual market on the second Tuesday of March, for horses and cattle, called Marnoch fair. There are six public houses in the parish, one in the country, and five in the village,—three too many. There are a branch of the North of Scotland Bank, and a stamp-office in the village, as also a post-office, and regular runners every lawful day to Banff and Huntly. The turnpike between these places runs through the village, and also the road between Tur-

riff and Portsoy, the village being almost in the centre between these places, and from eight to ten miles distant from each. The parishioners of Marnoch are an industrious, quiet, well-behaved people, and possessing a high degree of intelligence.

Library.—There is an extensive parochial library, as well as a juvenile library. Many of the parishioners are much given to reading. It may be mentioned, that, in the course of two weeks, 60 copies of Dr Dewar's "Body of Divinity" were sold in the parish.

Ecclesiastical State.—The stipend, as last augmented, is 128 bolls of meal, the same number of barley, and L.10 for communion elements. The glebe contains about five-and-a-quarter acres arable, worth L. 3, 3s. per acre, and three and a-quarter acres of grass, worth L.1, 10s. per acre. The manse was built in 1805, a plain, comfortable building, in good repair, and beautifully situated. The church, built some years prior to this time, and, from insufficiency, rebuilt within a few years after, is still little fitted for comfort. It is one of those old-fashioned barn-looking houses, which are now very properly disappearing, to make way for more improved places of worship.

The Protestant ministers of the parish were,—Hugo Chalmers, Episcopal minister of Marnoch, who died in 1707. His son, Alexander Chalmers, succeeded him as Presbyterian minister, for which office he had been educated by his father.—Mr James Innes, who died in the year 1803; and Mr William Stronach, who died in 1837. Mr John Edwards was presented by the patron in 1837; another presentation was issued by the patron in 1838 in favour of Mr D. Henry. The proceedings that led to this second presentation, or that ensued, need not be recited here. We may merely mention, that they led to the erection of a very handsome new church and manse near the village. The church contains about 1000 hearers, and the whole cost more than L.2000.

Education.—There are generally three or four schools in the parish, viz. the parochial school, taught by the Rev. J. Largue, in the most efficient manner, and according to the most approved modern system, and two or three unendowed. There is not so much need of an increase of the number, as of assistance to some of those already in operation, or perhaps of a second parochial school in the village, or a more central position for the present one.

The amount of the schoolmaster's salary is L.34, 4s. 4½d.; the probable amount of fees, about L.35; and of other emoluments, viz. from Dick's Bequest, Bruce's Legacy, session-clerkship, about L.53.

Poor.—The average number of persons regularly on the poor's roll is about 50, receiving from 5s. to 9s. per quarter; besides these, a good many poor persons receive occasional aid. The collections at church were wont to amount to about L.70, and the heritors generally gave about L.40 per annum. Now, however, a new arrangement is about being made. Besides the above, the population at large are most liberal in alms-giving, relieving very many cases of poverty by local subscriptions.

June 1842.

PARISH OF KEITH.*

PRESBYTERY OF STRATHBOGIE, SYNOD OF MORAY.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Extent, &c.—THE parish is about 6 miles long and as many broad. It lies in that fertile track of country called Strathisla, through which runs the water of Isla. It is bounded on the north, by the parishes of Rathven and Deskford; on the south, by those of Glass and Botriphnie; on the west, by Grange. The prevailing soil is loam and clay: the climate moist and cold.

The general appearance of the parish is not very inviting. Yet, along the banks of the Islay, there are beautiful and rich corn-fields in the highest state of cultivation. The course of the Islay through the parish may be said to be from south to north.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Mansion-Houses.—A modern and respectable mansion-house has been recently erected at Edintore, the seat of the only heritor resident in the parish.

* The proceedings consequent on the presentation to the parish of Marnoch in 1837 led to the deposition, by the General Assembly in 1841, of the Rev. J. Thomson, Minister of this parish: in which Mr Thomson and a minority of the General Assembly do not acquiesce. They have obtained a suspension and interdict from the Court of Session.

Superstitions.—The parish records bear, since the establishment of Presbyterianism, that the session took up a case of witchcraft against a woman, upon an accusation, that, as often as she passed the door of the Earl's mill, the mill-clap stopped. There was, in the north part of the parish, a rig of uncultivated land, called the Gun Rig, set aside to propitiate the evil spirits; and tradition says, that, when the farmer, about fifty years ago, was about to improve it, one of his cattle fell down dead. A stone-coffin containing some ashes was found in a heap of stones, which the present tenant removed, he having succeeded in improving the land, without injury to man or beast.

Eminent Men.—This parish had the honour of giving birth to Mr James Ferguson, the celebrated writer on astronomy and natural philosophy.

III.—POPULATION.

| | |
|-----------------------------|------|
| In 1801, the population was | 3284 |
| 1811, . | 3352 |
| 1821, . | 3926 |
| 1831, . | 4464 |
| 1841, . | 4458 |

The villages of New Keith and Old Keith contain 1805 inhabitants; Fife Keith, 579; Newmill, 448. The Banffshire part of the parish contains 1349, and the Morayshire, 276.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

The people are generally employed in agriculture, and the various trades which the cultivation of the land requires.

On the hill of Oldmore, there is a population to the amount of 300. The produce of the land is not sufficient for more than three months maintenance of the people in the year, even when the crop is good; and as it often fails from frost and other causes, they have to depend entirely on the sale of peats, which they prepare during summer, and drive to Keith all the year round, with small carts and ponies—frequently a female being the driver. The same, though on a somewhat less scale, may be said of Bogbain and the hill of Achanacy. The farms in the other parts of the parish vary in size, from crofts of 5 or 6 acres, to farms of 150 to 200 acres.

Agricultural Improvements.—Subsoil ploughing is carried on with doubtful success; bone manure answers well; and furrow-draining is practised both with small stones and tiles. Crosses of the native breed of cattle of the country with Teeswater and short-horned bulls have answered well.

Rent.—Real rent of the parish, L.6500; highest rent per acre L.3, 3s.

The produce of the parish for export consists of cattle, corn, barley and bear, pork, eggs, butter, and cheese, of which a great quantity is sent to the London market. The land is cultivated generally on the six-shift rotation of cropping, two years grass, two corn, one potatoes or turnips, and one corn or barley. There is no wheat cultivated in the parish; yet, there being two flour-mills, its manufacture is carried on to some extent. In New and Old Keith, there are 338 feus, to each of which are annexed from two to six acres of land, so that every feuar, whatever his trade or occupation, produces his own milk, butter, and cheese, and, in many cases, a sufficiency of meal for the use of his family. In Fife Keith, there are 120 feus, and to each feu are annexed from 4 to 6 acres of land. In Newmill, there are 100 feus, with five acres of land to each feu; and here, the people are more devoted to agriculture than in the other two villages, there being in proportion fewer tradesmen.

Manufactures.—There is a tannery, which employs two tanners and one currier; a distillery, which produces about 20,000 gallons of whisky annually; a tobacco manufactory, which requires from 40 to 50 cwt. annually. There are two mills for carding and spinning of wool, and a bleachfield for country use; a mill for home-grown flax; six corn-mills, and two flour-mills, which carry on a great trade, supplying the country for upwards of twenty miles round. A vein of limestone runs through the parish, from north-east to south-west, which is manufactured with advantage at Blackhillock, Douglas Brae, and Maisley, producing annually from 30,000 to 40,000 bolls of lime, which finds a ready market, besides supplying the surrounding districts both in Aberdeenshire and Morayshire, and giving employment to many carters and small crofters, both in driving the coals from Port-Gordon to the quarries, and driving the lime.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Villages.—Old Keith is a very ancient place, and, at no very distant period, was celebrated for an annual market held in September, to which merchants from Glasgow and the other manufacturing towns in the south repaired in great numbers, where they met those from the north, as far as Orkney, and exchanged their various commodities. So great was the concourse of people there, that the historian of Moray says, “There was not accommodation for them, and they occupied the barns and out-houses in the country for many miles round.” New Keith is a clean thriving-like village, on a rising ground sloping towards the east, with three

parallel streets running due south and north, intersected by a narrow lane between each alternate feu. The feus are fifteen yards front by sixty yards back, and pay from 10s. to L.1, 5s. feu-duty. There is a town-house and lock-up-house, and a large square or market-place, where there is a weekly market on Friday for the sale of all sorts of produce. There are six annual markets for the sale of cattle, horses, and sheep. At those of June and September a great deal of wool is still disposed of. New Keith may still be considered the market-town of the district. It was begun to be built about the year 1750. There are branches of three banks,—the Aberdeen Bank, the Town and County Bank, and the North of Scotland Bank. In it are all the principal merchants' shops, the residences of all the solicitors and doctors, while the inn, which is a commodious building, is the resort of all the commercial travellers, and the Mail and Defiance coaches stop at it daily. Gas-light has been lately introduced. There is likewise a Savings Bank in New Keith, which was instituted in 1827 by the parish minister. It is conducted by a secretary and thirty directors. There is a subscription library containing upwards of 600 volumes of standard works, and several other libraries connected with several of the congregations of the place. Fife Keith is a clean healthy village, and was begun to be built in 1817 by Lord Fife, on the north side of the Islay. It has a fine building adapted for an inn. The whole village, in a commercial view, has been a complete failure; for, except a few merchants' shops, and some three or four tradesmen, the population may be said to depend on their crofts of land. It has four markets for the sale of cattle annually. Newmill was begun as early as New Keith; but, being at a distance from public roads, it did not thrive,—the people depending entirely on their land. It has one annual well frequented market for the sale of cattle, horses, and sheep, in the month of October.

Ecclesiastical State.—The parish church is a substantial erection, built in the year 1816. It is 100 feet long, and 60 wide, and is seated to contain 1800. It has a square tower 120 feet high, in which are placed the clock and bell. The Roman Catholic chapel is a neat building, with a highly ornamented gable fronting the market place of New Keith. It was erected in 1828, and is capable of containing 340. The General Assembly's church contains sittings for 700. The Independent chapel has seats for 240. The Secession church has seats for 450. The Episcopalian chapel is seated to contain 150, and has a fine organ.

There are about 60 communicants connected with the Seces-

sion; about 400 belong to the Roman Catholic profession; Episcopalians and Independents not above 30 each.

Education. — The parish school is a large and commodious house, built for two teachers, and capable of accommodating 260 scholars. It was erected at the expense of the heritors in 1833. There is a school-house in Newmill capable of holding 100. There are likewise three other school-houses in the parish, erected within these few years by public collections and donations from private individuals and the heritors, obtained by the exertions of the minister. One of these schools is at Achanacy, another at Tarrycroys, and another at Oldmore.

The parish schoolmaster, besides the usual salary from the heritors, enjoys the Dick Bequest; and before the Schoolmaster's Act passed, there were mortified for the benefit of a schoolmaster in New Keith the lands and estate of Edendrach, the minister and kirk-session of the parish being appointed trustees; but, about a century ago, a progenitor of the Duff family, alleging that the land had fallen to him from the non-payment of the teinds, which he at that time rented from Forbes of Craigievar, got possession of the land for the yearly payment of 300 merks Scots to the schoolmaster—one of the elders at the time protesting against the transaction. About fifteen years ago, an attempt was made to reclaim the lands to their original purpose; but the title was found to have prescribed. The late Dr Simpson of Worcester, in the year 1840, left L.500, 3 per cent. consols, the interest of which was to increase the income of the schoolmaster. Yet, notwithstanding all these advantages, the school-fees are higher than in any of the surrounding parishes. The schoolmaster of Newmill receives, conjointly from the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge, the Earl of Fife, and the interest of L.100 mortified by the late Mr Chalmers, Newmill, an endowment of about L.25 annually, besides the school-fees.

Poor.—There are about 130 on the poor roll, who are under the guardianship of the kirk-session, and receive annually L.250 Sterling, derived from charitable collections, the use of the mortcloth, the sale of burial ground, and the interest of some donations,—the heritors making up the deficiency. It is given in sums, varying according to the condition of the claimants, from 3s. a week to 4s. a quarter.

July 1842.

COUNTY OF BANFF.

THIS county is bounded on the north, by the Moray Frith ; on the south and south-east, by Aberdeenshire ; on the west, by Morayshire. It is situated in the 58th degree of north latitude, and between 2°. 13' and 3°. 40' west longitude. It contains about 647 square miles. It is supposed to contain about 120,000 acres under cultivation. The valued rent is L.79,200 Scots, and the annual value of land, as assessed in 1815, amounted to L.79,396, 3s. 4d., and of houses, L.5514, 2s. Population in 1841, 50,076. Inhabited houses, 11,228. Parliamentary constituency in 1841, 760.

Table I. Showing the number of persons committed for trial or bailed in the county, for different offences, in the year 1840 :

| | |
|---|----|
| Offences against the person, | 13 |
| property, with violence, | 6 |
| without violence, | 9 |
| Malicious offences against property, | 3 |
| Forgery, and offences against the currency, | 1 |
| Other offences, | 5 |

TABLE II.—Showing Ecclesiastical State, &c. of Parishes in the County of Banff.

| Parishes. | Population in 1841. | Ecclesiastical State. | | | | Par. Schoolmasters' Emoluments. | | | Annual amount of Contributions to the Poor. | | | | |
|---------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|---------|-----------|---|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| | | Families belonging to Estab. Ch. | Individuals do. | Families of Dissenters or Seceders. | Amount of Parochial Ministers' stipend. | Schools in Par. | Salary. | Fees. | Total. | From assessment or voluntary contribution by Heritors. | From Church collections. | From Alms, Legacies, &c. | Total. |
| Banff. | 3953 | ... | 3400 | ... | 524 | 18 chalders. | 2 | See text. | ... | L. 116 0 0 | L. 133 0 0 | ... | ... |
| Deskford. | 860 | ... | 854 | ... | 6 | 14 chalders, &c. | 2 | L. 32 0 0 | L. 15 0 0 | ... | 20 0 0 | ... | ... |
| Ordiquhill. | 637 | ... | 614 | ... | 23 | L. 160. | 2 | 30 0 0 | 10 0 0 | ... | 27 0 0 | L. 10 12 0 | ... |
| Forglen. | 771 | ... | 765 | ... | 6 | L. 172, &c. | 2 | 34 4 0 | 30 0 0 | ... | 64 6 8 | 2 10 0 | ... |
| Gartly. | 1037 | 160 | ... | 16 | ... | 14 chalders. | 1 | 32 10 0 | 15 0 0 | ... | 25 0 0 | 16 2 10 | L. 80 9 6 |
| Mordlach. | 2604 | ... | 2470 | ... | 130 | 15 chalders. | 2 | 34 4 0 | ... | ... | ... | 15 0 0 | ... |
| Aberlour. | 1352 | ... | 1300 | ... | ... | 14½ chalders. | 2 | 34 4 0 | 12 0 0 | ... | 18 0 0 | See text. | ... |
| Inveraven. | 2417 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 15 chalders. | 8 | 28 17 0 | 11 0 0 | ... | ... | See text. | ... |
| Alvah. | 1407 | ... | 1395 | ... | ... | 13 chalders. | 5 | 30 0 0 | 5 0 0 | 10 10 0 | 26 0 0 | See text. | ... |
| Fordyce. | 3436 | ... | 3134 | ... | 230 | 16 chalders. | 11 | 34 4 0 | 30 0 0 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Cabrach. | 827 | 147 | ... | 23 | ... | L. 152, 10s. | 4 | 29 18 0 | 4 0 0 | ... | 10 5 0 | 11 16 0 | 22 1 0 |
| Rothiemay. | 1227 | 259 | ... | 17 | ... | 15 chalders. | 2 | 30 0 0 | 20 0 0 | ... | 30 1 0 | ... | ... |
| Glass. | 886 | 133 | 856 | ... | 30 | 13 chalders. | 2 | 34 4 0 | 28 3 0 | ... | 22 0 0 | 6 0 0 | 28 0 0 |
| Botriphnie. | 714 | 90 | ... | 4 | ... | 13 chalders. | 2 | 30 0 0 | 7 0 0 | ... | 16 17 0 | 4 0 0 | 20 17 0 |
| Inverkeithny. | 686 | ... | ... | 5 | ... | L. 220. | ... | 34 4 0 | 30 0 0 | ... | 30 0 0 | 5 0 0 | 35 0 0 |
| Grange. | 1661 | ... | See text. | ... | ... | 14½ chalders. | 4 | 34 4 0 | ... | ... | ... | Int. of L. 600 | ... |
| Boindie. | 1501 | ... | 1430 | ... | 69 | 15 chalders. | 3 | 25 0 0 | ... | ... | 36 10 0 | L. 32 13 0 | ... |
| Rathven. | 6040 | ... | 1820 | ... | ... | 120 bolls, &c. | 14 | 32 0 0 | 23 0 0 | ... | 44 4 0 | See text. | 74 4 0 |
| Gamrie. | 4742 | 876 | ... | 73 | ... | 16½ chalders. | ... | 25 13 0 | 50 0 0 | 100 0 0 | 100 0 0 | L. 50 0 0 | 250 0 0 |
| Kirkmichael. | 1576 | ... | 1237 | ... | ... | 15 chalders. | 3 | 25 13 0 | 50 0 0 | 10 0 0 | 17 0 0 | Int. of L. 1760 | 95 0 0 |
| Cullen. | 2652 | ... | ... | ... | ... | L. 109, &c. | 7 | 34 4 0 | 3 0 0 | ... | 59 0 0 | ... | 76 14 0 |
| Boharm. | 1261 | ... | 1240 | ... | 20 | L. 168, &c. | 8 | 36 0 0 | 40 0 0 | ... | 22 10 0 | Int. of 200, &c. | 43 0 0 |
| Marnoch. | 2691 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 34 4 0 | ... | 40 0 0 | 70 0 0 | L. 250 0 0 | ... |
| Keith. | 4454 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 110 0 0 |

N. B.—The parish of St. Fergus, belonging more properly to this county, is classed with that of Aberdeen.

The amount of the parochial schoolmasters' emoluments above-stated does not include their allowance from the Dick Bequest, or their emoluments from the office of Session-Clerk, Precentor, &c.

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ELGIN.

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FROM RIVER ST. TO THE SOUTHERS





THE LIVING MARRIAGE SACRAMENTS.

Printed. Hiles.



Longitude West from Greenwich

PARISH OF ELGIN.

PRESBYTERY OF ELGIN, SYNOD OF MORAY.

THE REV. WILLIAM GORDON, { MINISTERS.
THE REV. ALEXANDER WALKER, }

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—It appears from the chartulary of Moray that the name of this town and parish prior to the year 1226 was Elgyn or Helgyn; and an old iron seal in the town's repositories, has this inscription, engraven in Saxon characters, in a style supposed to be earlier than that of the middle of the 16th century,—“S. COMMUNE CIVITATIS DE HELGYN.” A variety of etymologies have been given of the name, but the most probable derives it from Helgy, General of the army of Sigurd, the Norwegian Earl of Orkney, who conquered Caithness, Sutherland, Ross, and Moray, about the beginning of the tenth century.* This general, it is said, built a town in the southern part of Moray, which most probably was Elgin, as it is situated about eight miles south east of Burghead, where the Norwegians had a small fort and harbour for their shipping.†

Extent, &c.—The parish of Elgin is inland, and extremely irregular in its figure. With the exception of that part of the parish lying westward of the Lossie, and containing the vales of Pluscarden and Mosstowie, which are separated by a steep hilly ridge, it has a gentle acclivity from the town, on the northern extremity, to the base of the Blackhills, the summit of which is its southern boundary. We are not perhaps far from the truth in estimating the superficial extent at 18 square miles. The town stands on the south bank of the Lossie, on ground sloping a little to the north, and its length is greatly disproportionate to its breadth, the high street being nearly three quarters of a mile long. The bulk of the population have their dwellings in closes or alleys, opening at a right angle to the principal street. In olden times, the river ran by the gardens which generally terminated these alleys to the north; but a field of fifty or sixty acres of haugh land, partly in the parish of

* Vide former Statistical Account. † Rerum Orcad. Hist. a Thorm. Torfeo.
ELGIN.

New Spynie, now intervenes betwixt the river and its former channel. A highly cultivated and well-wooded secondary slope, rising in the form of a crescent from the north bank, greatly beautifies, and at the same time shelters, the town from the North-west, North and North-east, winds. The south side of the town is preferred for building, and many handsome houses and cottages, have been recently erected; but the effect of the whole is marred by a total want of plan; the Proprietor having left each Feuar at liberty to set down his house according to his own taste or caprice.

Meteorology.—No regular register of the barometer and thermometer has been hitherto kept in the parish; but it may be stated generally, that both of these range higher than in any of the northern counties of Scotland.* The prevailing winds are west and south-west, and the climate of the town and district is particularly mild and salubrious. In the year 1830, 93 deaths were recorded, of which one-third were above sixty years of age, viz. 8 from sixty to seventy; 16 from seventy to eighty; 7 from eighty to ninety; and 2 from ninety to one hundred. There are comparatively few winters when snow lies more than two or three weeks after the commencement of the year, and for some winters past it was scarcely seen for as many days in succession. The summers are dry and warm. When the clouds, loaded with the vapour of the Atlantic, reach the head of the Moray Frith, they are attracted on the north by the Ross and Sutherland hills, and on the south by the lofty mountain range where the Nairn, the Findhorn, and the Lossie have their sources; and the farmer, in what is called the *How* of Moray, sees many a cloud pouring its waters to the north and south which would be most grateful and refreshing to his parched fields. The drought of July is most injurious to the spring crops.

None of the prevalent diseases can be ascribed to any peculiarity in the climate. No case of Indian cholera has occurred in the parish.

Hydrography.—The landward part of the parish is generally well supplied with springs of excellent water; but the town is dependent on pump-wells, the water of which is more or less impregnated with the strata through which it rises,—or on river water, brought in casks drawn by horses or carried by servants, at a great expense of time and labour.

* A barometer, thermometer, and rain-gage have been provided at the Elgin Institution, and placed under the charge of Mr Allan, the accurate and intelligent house-governor, and the observations on each will be given to the public in a tabular form.

The Lossie is the only stream of any magnitude in the parish. It either skirts or winds through it, rather a sluggish course of about eight miles, part of which it forms the northern boundary, and falls into the Moray Frith at the shipping port of Lossiemouth, five miles north-east of Elgin. Running through a flat country, it requires to be confined to its channel by artificial banks, which it frequently overflows, damaging the crops on the adjoining fields, and occasioning considerable expense to the proprietors, in repairs. This was particularly the case in the disastrous floods of August 1829, so accurately and graphically described in Sir Thomas D. Lauder's book on the subject.

Geology and Mineralogy.—On either of these branches of science there is very little to interest the naturalist. The hilly ridge which separates Pluscarden from Mosstowie is of hard sandstone, not liable to be decomposed by the action of air and water; and, where the strata are visible, they appear to be nearly parallel to the horizon. About a mile south of Elgin, there is a bed of secondary limestone, lying in the direction of east to west, and which may be traced eastward through the parishes of St Andrews and Urquhart to a rock visible at low water in the Moray Frith. This bed is adulterated with sand, clay, and oxide of iron. These impurities give the lime a dark colour, but it is found to answer very well for agricultural purposes, and for mortar to buildings of an inferior description. There is a great variety of soil in the parish. Much of the arable land is light and sandy, part is inclined to clay, and part is a rich loam, particularly on the banks of the Lossie.

Woods.—About seventy years ago, the lowland district of Moray was one of the barest in Scotland. Scarce a tree was to be seen, except a few ashes in the avenue leading to the mansion of some old family. James the Second Earl of Fife was the first extensive planter, and his example was soon followed by the neighbouring land-owners, so that there is now hardly an uncultivated knoll or ridge to be seen which is not covered with wood. The oldest plantation in this parish is at Main, the property of the Earl of Seafield, and it barely reaches to half a century. Many hundreds of acres on the estates of the Earl of Fife and George Duff, Esq. of Milton Duff, which, less than twenty years ago, were naked moor, are now clothed with almost every variety of forest trees. These, and the plantations at Westerton, the property of Colonel Alexander Hay, greatly improve the scenery of Pluscarden, and render the interesting ruins of the priory much more beautiful and

picturesque. On the south side of the parish, Blackhills, the property of Lachlan Cuming, Esq. is also well wooded. All these plantations are very thriving, and consist of larch and Scotch firs interspersed with oak, beech, ash, &c. where the soil gives any promise of sufficient depth and richness for the nourishment of hard timber. The larch here, as in most other parts of the country, is much infested with the insect peculiar to it; and, at one period, the planters were much alarmed at the ravages of the *Chermes pini*, as it has been called, but their fears are subsiding, as experience has shown that it rarely kills, though it no doubt retards the growth of the tree.

Remarkable Beech.—There is a very beautiful and perfectly healthy beech tree in the college garden, the property of George Duff, Esq. of Milton. The stem rises almost perpendicular to the height of 16 feet, and then bursts out into a forest of limbs in every direction, and with every possible variety of curve and angle, forming an object truly picturesque. The girth of the bole near the ground is 13 feet, and at 8 feet high it is 12 feet. As nearly as can be ascertained, the fine head rises to 70 feet, and the boughs extend over a circle of 80 feet in diameter. Eight of such trees would cover an imperial acre.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

The Rev. Dr Lachlan Shaw, one of the ministers of Elgin, published a history of the province of Moray in the year 1775, and the writer of this has abridged from it much of what is stated relative to the antiquities of the town and parish. The book having become scarce, was reprinted with notes at the Courier printing-office Elgin, in 1827, and is now in general circulation.

Historical Notices.—Elgin is the county town,—the seat of the presbytery,—of the law and county courts. About the beginning of the eleventh century it appears to have been a considerable town, with a royal fort. The earliest charter of guildry was granted by Alexander II. in 1234. This charter was subsequently confirmed; and various local taxes remitted at different dates by the Earls of Moray, to whom the town was subject as Constables of the King's fort. Grants of land and other concessions by Alexander, Robert, James I. II. and VI. were ratified by Charles I. in a charter dated the 8th of October 1633. The gross revenue of the burgh at present is about L. 600 per annum. The town's arms represent St Giles in a pastoral habit, holding a book in the right hand and a pastoral staff in the left, with this motto, "SIC ITUR AD ASTRA."

Since the passing of the Reform Bill the limits of the royalty have been greatly extended, and include the populous village of Bishop Mill, in the parish of New Spynie. The number of the enrolled constituency is 277, but at least twenty more have a right to the elective franchise, who have not qualified. Along with Cullen, Banff, Peterhead, Kintore, and Inverury, it sends a Member to Parliament, and is the returning burgh. Within the last fifteen years, two printing-presses have been established in the town, and the proprietors of each attempted a periodical, the one a literary magazine, and the other an agricultural journal, but without success. The *Elgin Courier*, a weekly journal, was first published in 1827, and at one time had a circulation, it is said, of 300, which, had it continued, would have remunerated the enterprising proprietor. From untoward circumstances, the journal has recently passed into other hands; and if the *Elgin Courant* is conducted with the prudence and ability which the few numbers published indicate, there is no doubt it will succeed.

Eminent Men.—Alexander Grey, Esq. surgeon, and Lieutenant-General Anderson, both of the E. I. C. Service, the former a native of Elgin, and the latter a proprietor and occasional residenter, deserve to be mentioned. Dr Grey, by economical habits, amassed a very considerable fortune in the East, the greater part of which he bequeathed for charitable purposes, particularly for building and endowing an hospital for the sick poor of the town and county of Elgin, of which the objects for whom it was intended have been reaping the benefit for more than fifteen years.

General Anderson was born of very humble parents in the neighbouring parish of Lhanbryd, and entered the Honourable Company's service as a private. By his good conduct and soldierly qualities he attained rank and wealth, and the large fortune which he had honourably acquired he devoted at his death to the education of the young, and the support of the aged poor of his native county. The Elgin Institution at the east, and Grey's Hospital at the west end of the town are splendid memorials of these philanthropists.

Land-owners.—The principal proprietors in the parish are, the Earls of Fife, Seafield, and Moray, George Duff of Milton Duff, Colonel Alexander Hay of Westerton, Alexander Brander of Springfield, James Stephen, M. D. of the Shanchry, James Stewart King of the Greyfriars, Lachlan Cuning of Blackhills, and Major Taylor of Bilbohall.

Parochial Registers.—The register of baptisms and marriages, extending to seven volumes, commences in the year 1705, and though a few years are wanting, it may be reckoned on the whole as complete a record as is to be found in most parishes. The register of burials begins in 1770, and is confined to those interred in the cathedral burying-ground. This inaccuracy, however, is more apparent than real, as the number of strangers interred in the cathedral ground are probably very nearly the same as the number of persons who die in the parish, and are buried in the neighbouring church-yards. These registers are most accurately kept.

Antiquities.—There are various remains of religious houses in the parish, the most interesting and magnificent of which are those of the *cathedral*. This noble edifice was founded by Bishop Andrew Murray in the year 1224, on the site of the church of the Holy Trinity at the north-east extremity of the town, and, as he lived eighteen years, it is probable that if he did not finish, he greatly advanced the building. “The Wolf of Badenoch,” having seized upon, and kept violent possession of some of the Bishop of Moray’s lands, was excommunicated for this outrage, and in resentment burnt the town, the parish church of St Giles, the Maison Dieu, the cathedral, and the greater part of the college in the year 1390. The cathedral was rebuilt with as little delay as possible, in the form of a Passion or Jerusalem cross, having five towers, two at each end, and one in the centre. In the interior it had what is called the *nave* for the numerous and splendid processions of Christian worship under papal guidance,—*aisles* for the reception of the multitude to witness these processions,—and a *choir* for the actual performance of the sacred rites. On the north side was the chapter-house, communicating with the choir by a vaulted vestry. These essential appendages of Romish worship necessarily occupied a space of great magnitude, as the following measurement, which is nearly accurate, will shew: Length of cathedral over walls, 264 feet; breadth, 35; traverse, 114; height of centre tower, 198; eastern turrets, 60; western towers without the spires, 84; side wall, 36. The whole was of Gothic architecture, in the style called “decorated English;” and although the grotesque is the prevailing character of the sculpture, many small ornaments, designed with taste, and executed with the utmost delicacy, are yet to be seen. This costly and imposing edifice stood entire in all its grandeur, until the government of the Regent Morton was driven to the miserable shift of passing an act of council on the 14th February 1568 for

stripping the lead from the cathedral churches of Aberdeen and Elgin, and selling it to pay the troops. This order was too faithfully executed, and the cathedral of Moray, thus uncovered, was suffered to decay as a piece of Romish vanity, too expensive to be kept in repair. The wooden work of the great tower gradually decayed, and, the foundation giving way, it fell in the year 1711. The remains of this venerable pile are well worth the examination of the traveller. The chapter-house, an exact octagon, 37 feet in diagonal breadth, with a vaulted roof 34 feet high, and supported in the centre by a column 24 feet high, and 9 feet in circumference, on which rest arched pillars from each angle of the sides, is in good preservation. The turrets and walls of the choir on the east end, and the towers on the west, between which was the grand entrance with its deep recess and bivalved door richly ornamented, are still standing at the dimensions already specified; but of the walls of the nave and traverse only a few fragments remain. A commendable attention has been paid for some years past by the Barons of Exchequer in Scotland, and the Commissioners of Woods and Forests in England, to the preservation of these interesting relics, and grants of money have been judiciously expended in clearing away the great mass of rubbish in the choir and nave, by which the steps to the altar and the bases of the pillars that supported the arches of the aisles have been uncovered, so that a tolerably accurate idea may now be formed of the extent of the several parts of the building. Much praise is due to the present keeper* for the zeal and diligence with which he has laboured in bringing to light adjuncts of the fabric, particularly the steps leading to the grand entrance, and a porch to the southmost aisle, of which there was no record.

The *College* was an appendage of the Cathedral, and contained not only the church and grave yard, but also the bishop's house, and the manses and gardens of the twenty-two canons. It was inclosed with a strong stone wall 4 yards high and 900 yards in circuit, and had four gates. The Pans Port or eastern gateway, with part of the inclosing wall, is still standing, and appears to have had a portcullis, iron gate, and porter's lodge.

A *Convent* of *Grey Friars* was settled in Elgin by Alexander II. and the ruins of their church are to be seen on the south side of the town.

The *site* of the *preceptory* of *Maison Dieu* may be traced in the

* John Shanks.

middle of an arable field at the east end of the town, but no part of the buildings remain.

The ruins of the Abbey of Pluscarden are situated in a vale of the same name, at the foot of a steep bridge fronting the south, about six miles westward of Elgin. A lofty stone wall, of which a considerable part is standing, inclosed several acres of ground. The church, in the form of a cross, stood almost in the centre, with the prior's house and the cells of the monks adjoining. The Dormitory, which has recently been roofed in, and the walls and windows repaired in the same style as the original building, was on the second floor, at the south east end of the church, and under it was an arched Kitchen. The latter has been fitted up as a place of public worship for the inhabitants of the vale, and a clergyman on the Royal Bounty resides near, and regularly officiates. The inclosure also contained the gardens, the burial-ground, and the mill for grinding the monks' grain. Every attention is paid by the Earl of Fife, the proprietor, to preserve these relics from farther decay, and the shrubberies and walks near the abbey, and the plantations adjacent, add greatly to their beauty and interest.

Fort.—There are some remains of a fort on a small green hill, now called the Lady-hill, at the west end of the town, but they are not sufficient to show the form or extent of the buildings. The walls were built of stone and run lime, and, as the length of the plain area on the top of the hill is nearly twice the breadth, the fort was probably an oblong quadrangle. It no doubt had its towers, draw-well, guarded entrance, and fosse, as traces of some of these are still to be seen. The Earls of Moray acted as constables, and had jurisdiction within certain bounds till the middle of the fifteenth century; they had for salary the customs of the town, the assize of ale, and some lands. The property of the hill descended to their successors, and belongs to the present Earl. This little hill commands a most extensive and delightful view of the frith and the surrounding country for many miles.

New Buildings.—The Elgin Institution, for the support of old age and the education of youth, stands on the south side of the entrance to the town from the east, and is a quadrangular building of two stories, surmounted with a circular tower and dome. The principal front and entrance is to the north, having the two sides of the quadrangle projecting, and, in the centre a portico of two beautiful Ionic columns with entablature rising to the height of

the building, on which is placed a group of three figures in sculpture, emblematic of the founder and the objects of the charity. The west side has also its portico of six plain Doric columns and entablature rising to the base of the windows of the second story. The interior contains most convenient and comfortable accommodation for sixty children, ten aged and indigent persons, and for the necessary establishment of house-governor, matron, teachers, and servants. The grand entrance leads through a narrow corridor directly into the chapel, having an arched roof full 30 feet high, and communicating by arched passages with both sides of the building. The school rooms, the eating halls, and dormitories of the children occupy the whole eastern side; the apartments of the aged are on the ground floor of the western side, and over these the sick-rooms for the children, and the parlours and bed-rooms of the house-governor and matron. The kitchen, wash-house, laundry, &c. are to the south; and connected with these, but having a separate entry, are the free school, of sufficient extent for 230 scholars, and the apartments for a male and female teacher. The porter's lodge, in the form of an octagon with a pyramidal roof, is on the west side. The garden, play-grounds, shrubbery, and stance of the buildings, measure about 3 Scotch acres, and are enclosed with a stone wall and iron railing. The building is reckoned very chaste, and highly creditable to the talents of Archibald Simpson, Esq. architect, Aberdeen, who designed it. It is constructed of beautiful freestone, from the hill of Quarrywood, and, with the furnishings, cost nearly L. 12,000. It was opened on the 5th June 1833.

Church.—The new church, on the site of the old church of St Giles, is in the High Street, nearly in the centre of the town, and is built of the same materials as the Institution, and after a plan by the same artist. This is a very elegant structure, not surpassed by any in the north of Scotland. The length over walls is 96 feet, and breadth $60\frac{1}{2}$, side walls 36, and height of ceiling 31. On the east end there is a projecting square tower with clock and bells, surmounted by what is commonly called a lantern, consisting of one massive column in the centre, and a circular colonnade, supporting a tholus or cupola richly ornamented, the whole rising to the height of 112 feet. The access for the congregation is by three doors on the west end, under a spacious portico of six Grecian Doric columns, projecting 7 feet 4 inches from the building and extending $53\frac{1}{2}$ feet in breadth. The entablature rises to a sufficient height to admit of the portico being roofed uniformly

with the church. An unseemly court-house and jail, a few yards to the westward of the church, prevent this fine portico from being seen to advantage, but an act was passed last Session of Parliament for their removal, so that this deformity to the church and to the street will soon be corrected. The vestry on the ground story of the tower communicates directly with the pulpit, which is placed about ten feet from the wall, by a small stair, and there is a stove for heating the church. The interior arrangements of galleries and pews are most convenient, and a beautiful simplicity, well suited to the forms of Presbyterian worship, characterises the whole. It was opened for public worship in October 1828; and, including communion plate and a fund of L. 300 for repairs, cost the proprietors L. 8300.

Grey's Hospital.—This also is a building of two stories, in the Grecian style of architecture, having on the front, which is to the east, a fine projecting portico of four Roman Doric columns, and entablature, rising to the same height as the walls of the building, and the centre crowned with a dome, which has been found fault with as too heavy. It stands on a rising ground at the west end of the town, and coming into view almost immediately after passing the church, it forms a very striking and beautiful termination to the High Street. A small lunatic asylum for paupers, containing ten cells and the necessary accommodation for keepers and servants, was built, 1834, by a voluntary assessment on the land-owners, amounting to L. 850. It is situated on the grounds of the hospital to the westward. Some delay in opening it has been occasioned by the want of funds to provide furniture, and to erect appendages to the building absolutely necessary, though not included in the original plan and estimate. The Trinity Lodge Assembly Rooms, spacious and elegantly furnished; Sir Archibald Dunbar's town house; the Episcopal Chapel; the House of Westerton, are all of recent erection, but the limits of this report do not admit of their being fully described.

III.—POPULATION.

If the returns of the population of the town and parish prior to the Government census be correct, it has fluctuated very considerably.

| | | | |
|--|---|-------------------------------|------|
| In 1750, according to Dr Webster, the amount was | - | - | 6306 |
| 1793 | - | Rev. John Grant | 4534 |
| 1801 | - | Government census | 4345 |
| 1811 | - | Do. | 4602 |
| 1821 | - | Do. | 5308 |
| 1831 | - | Do. males 2824, females 3306, | 6130 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|------|
| Number of population residing in town, | - | - | 4493 |
| in the country, | - | - | 1637 |
| The yearly average of births for last seven years,* | - | - | 113 |
| of deaths, | - | - | 75 |
| of marriages, | - | - | 45 |
| Proprietors of land of the yearly value of L. 50 and upwards, | - | - | 22 |
| Number of families in the parish, | - | - | 1418 |
| chiefly employed in agriculture, | - | - | 265 |
| in trade, manufacture, or handicraft, | - | - | 735 |
| Number of inhabited houses, | - | - | 1116 |
| uninhabited houses, | - | - | 32 |

Habits and Character.—In the cottages of the small farmer and labourer, and in the apartments of the journeyman artisan, there is a marked improvement in cleanliness and comfort, and the same is observable in their dress and mode of living. It may be truly said that the people enjoy in a reasonable degree the comforts and advantages of society. In so numerous a population there is no doubt considerable diversity of character, but it may be stated generally that they are intelligent and industrious, decent in deportment, and attentive to their social and religious duties. Offences against the excise laws are become extremely rare; but convictions for poaching are by no means uncommon.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

* With all the care taken to make the record accurate, it is probable that there were a few more births than those registered; and it has been already stated that the burials recorded are those only that take place in the cathedral burying-ground.

the agricultural population of the surrounding district, with the necessities, and such of the luxuries of life as their respective circumstances enable them to reach.

The following statement exhibits the branches of industry in which the male population of the parish above twenty years of age are employed. 1. Farmers, cottars, and servants employed in agriculture, 365; 2. Master manufacturers, 6; 3. Masters and workmen in retail trade and handicraft, 703; 4. Capitalists, bankers, professional, and educated men, 113; 5. Labourers, employed by the classes, Nos. 2, 3, and 4, 151; 6. Retired tradesmen, superannuated labourers, and males diseased in body or mind, not included above, 77; Taxed male household servants under twenty years of age, 12; above twenty years of age, 8; female servants, 480.

Agriculture.—The plans and measurements of the large estates in the parish are generally of an old date, and do not give an accurate account of their contents of waste and arable land; and it is equally difficult to get any correct knowledge of the extent of the small properties around the town. In stating the number of the imperial acres in the parish cultivated or occasionally in tillage, and also what is uncultivated and under wood, it must be understood that only an approximation to the truth is given, from the best information that could be obtained.

| | |
|---|------|
| Imperial acres cultivated or occasionally in tillage, | 7000 |
| remaining waste or in pasture, | 3000 |
| under wood, | 1500 |

There is a very considerable extent of waste land, particularly on the south side of the parish, which might be profitably cultivated, if sufficient encouragement were given by the land-owners, as lime works most beneficially on the new soil, and raises heavy crops of grain and grass. A common between the estates of the Earl of Fife and Mr Cuming of Blackhills has been recently divided, and though the westmost and most extensive part of it is almost inaccessible to wheel carriages, and no allowance given for building, or for the land improved, beyond a lease of scarcely the ordinary endurance at a trifle of rent per acre, yet it is astonishing to see with what spirit the industrious settlers are bringing large tracts into culture. It is the general opinion that a sum of money laid out in making roads, in a very moderate allowance per acre for improvements, and in planting, would be amply repaid to the proprietor, and make almost the whole of this waste a cultivated and ornamental field. There is no natural wood in the parish, and it has been already mentioned, that larch and Scotch firs preponderate

in the plantations, but not to the exclusion of hard timber. All the plantations are pruned and thinned with great care and regularity, and the thinnings sold for paling, roofing, and other purposes of husbandry.

Rent of Land.—In 1828, the rental of land in the parish was L. 8520, and if the foregoing estimate of what is arable be correct, it will make the average annual rent L. 1, 4s. per imperial acre, or about L. 1, 10s. per Scotch acre. The best laugh land is let from L. 1, 12s. to L. 2, and the light lands in the vicinity of the town, from L. 2, 8s. to L. 2, 16s. per imperial acre.

Rate of Wages.—Farm-servants generally live in the farmers' houses, and the males receive annually from L. 9 to L. 10, and the females from L. 4 to L. 5, of wages besides food. Male labourers engaged by the day get from 9s. to 9s. 6d. per week, and women for field labour from 3s. to 4s. per week. Male labourers prefer piece-work when practicable, and if they earn more in this way it is by longer and harder toil. A carpenter's wages per day are from 2s. to 2s. 4d. and a mason's from 2s. to 2s. 6d.; with the utmost diligence weavers can hardly reach 9s. per week.

Husbandry.—Thirty-five years ago the breeds of horses and cattle in the parish and district was of a very inferior description, but since that time much attention has been paid to their improvement. The best breeds of horses from the southern counties have been introduced; and it may now be asserted that more compact, active, strong, horses are seldom to be met with than those in the possession of the Morayshire farmer. The most prevalent breed of cattle is a black-coloured horned breed, resembling the Aberdeenshire, though not so large, and, with much care and expense by the breeder, it has attained great symmetry and beauty as well as size. Some enterprising farmers have begun to cross this breed with the short-horned; but the experiment has not been made for a length of time sufficient to determine whether the plan ought to be generally pursued. The few sheep fed with the farmer's cattle do not require to be noticed, but pigs of every variety of breed are very abundant in every farm-yard, and there are few of the poorest cottagers without one. On most of the farms in the parish the rotation of crops consists of a five-shift course, in which white and green crops, including two years' grass, alternately succeed each other; and the agricultural implements are of the most approved construction. In the cultivation of green crops, there has been a wonderful alteration within a few years, from the application of

bone manure. It is now used to a certain extent by almost every farmer; and Mr Lawson of Old Mills has erected, near Elgin, a mill for its manufacture. From fifteen to twenty bushels per imperial acre, without mixture, will produce a heavy crop of turnips; but, for a year or two past, a more economical mode of applying bones for raising this valuable esculent has been adopted, namely, by dibbling, and in this way half the quantity, or even less, will raise a very fair crop. In order to render the saving plan beneficial to the soil, the whole crop thus raised ought to be consumed on the ground by sheep,—a practice to which, one great obstacle at present is the want of a market for the fatted stock,—an obstacle which steam conveyance, it is hoped, will soon remove. Wheat, oats, and barley, are cultivated in considerable variety in the parish. About four years ago the *Hopetoun oat* was first tried by that intelligent and zealous agriculturist, Mr Isaac Forsyth of Haughland. This variety does not suit light land, but it is now much used on rich soils, and the produce in straw and corn exceeds considerably that of any other oat formerly cultivated. The *Chevalier barley* has been recently introduced, and from its superior quality is likely to be extensively raised.

The use of lime has been general for twelve years. On light land it is applied at the rate of 120 to 140 bushels, and on strong land at the rate of 200 bushels, or even more per imperial acre. On very light sandy soil, though the effects are visible in the green crops and grass, it is doubtful whether it will pay, but along the margin of the Blackhills and in Pluscarden it operates so advantageously that one crop or two will repay the expense. The farm-buildings generally belong to the tenant. The house of the small farmer consists of one story, and is thatched with straw,—that of the more extensive farmer has two stories, is built of sandstone, and slated. The farm of Main, and two or three small Properties in the vicinity of the town, are enclosed and subdivided with thorn hedges, but this species of fence is too slow of growth, and too liable to accident, and requires too much care and attention to be adopted by the farmer without encouragement from the heritor, which has not hitherto been given. The fields around the Abbey of Pluscarden have been enclosed and subdivided by the proprietor with stone dikes; and similar enclosures, made at the expense of the tenant, are partially to be met with on that side of the parish; but Mr Lawson's farm of Old Mills, near the town, is the only one completely enclosed with this substantial and durable fence. Con-

venient and profitable as such enclosures are to the farmer, they are too expensive to become general, unless the land-owners were to defray the cost of building, exacting a moderate per centage from the tenantry. Extensive improvements have recently been made by draining in the vales of Pluscarden and Mosstowie, mostly at the expense of the proprietors. Much waste land in the parish has been reclaimed by frequent ploughing, harrowing, and liming,—at the tenant's expense generally, though in a few instances an allowance of L. 5 per Scotch acre has been given by the proprietor when the land is brought into proper tillage and limed, and for which the tenant pays five per cent. during the remaining years of his lease. The proprietor of Westerton trenched and limed a large moor some years ago at an expense of L. 12 per Scotch arce, which is now paying well. A small sum of money laid out in making roads, and an allowance of L. 5 per acre for tillage and liming, would soon bring some hundreds of acres of waste land under crop, which, even in these times of agricultural distress, would pay both landlord and tenant. Leases in general are of nineteen years endurance. On some of the large properties the farms are valued by an experienced person before being let; on others they are let to the highest bidder.

Manufactures.—There are eight grain mills in the parish,—a carding-mill for wool, and a saw-mill for timber. Thrashing-mills driven by horses or by water are in general use. A tannery and brewery in the town, and two distilleries in the landward part of the parish, are in active operation. The hands employed in any of these works are not numerous, and no injurious effects on the health or morals of the persons engaged in them have been observed.

Morayshire Farmers' Club.—This club was instituted in 1799, and is now the oldest local agricultural Association in Scotland. The original members were most happy in their selection of Mr Isaac Forsyth as secretary, who engaged in the cause with all his heart, and, for more than a quarter of a century, devoted the energies of an active and intelligent mind to the attainment of the important and patriotic objects for which the Society was established. The attention and funds of the club were first applied to the introduction of new implements of husbandry—to the excitement of emulation among ploughmen, by awarding premiums after public competition to the most skilful, and to the improvement of the breed of horses by the purchase of one of high character and pedi-

gree. The advantages of the Association became every year more and more apparent, and it soon enrolled as members, not only the whole body of respectable farmers in the district, but also all the noblemen and gentlemen connected with the county. Annual cattle shows were then established,—premiums of large amount were given for horses from the southern districts, to serve for the season in the county,—for the different kinds of stock brought into competition,—for various branches of tillage and crops,—for seed grain, grasses, &c. These premiums are not confined to the members of the club, but, with a liberality which has characterized all their proceedings, are open to every class of farmers in the county; and certainly it is not one of the least gratifying effects of the society's exertions, that a considerable proportion of prizes for the best stock is annually carried off by the small farmers who are not members. The club has not been inattentive to another very important object, namely, to the supply of the means of information to the members on those subjects with which it nearly concerns them to be acquainted. At an early period of the association, a sum of money was annually set apart from the funds, for the establishment of an agricultural library, which now contains a valuable collection of the best books on every branch of rural economy, and is yearly increased by every useful publication on agriculture, as soon as it comes from the press. Since its commencement, the individual members of the club have contributed L. 2250 to its funds; and if the implements in use, the state of tillage, and the breed of stock to be seen even on small farms, be compared with what they were thirty years ago, the mighty alteration must be ascribed, in no small degree, to the judicious expenditure of this large sum, and to the beneficial influence exerted by the society, in promoting the agricultural improvements of the district. The club still exists in undiminished vigour and usefulness.

Society for promoting Industry among the most necessitous Poor.—The object of this Society is sufficiently indicated by its name. There is in the town a number of indigent but industrious females, whom the introduction of steam manufacture has deprived of the means by which they formerly earned a subsistence. A small fund is provided by subscriptions and donations among the members and friends of the society, to purchase the materials of spinning, knitting, and sewing, which are given out to these females to be wrought up according to instructions, and for which they receive the ordinary rate of wages. The manufactured articles are then

sold, and the money drawn applied to the purchase of more raw material. There are upwards of seventy aged and infirm females on the books of the society, who are either occasionally or constantly employed. They express their gratitude for the aid which keeps them from the degradation of begging, and seem very sensible how much the relief which their own industry thus procures for them, is superior in relish and respectability to the ordinary gratuity. A committee of ladies attend at the sale-room on a stated day every week, to give out and take in work, and it is chiefly owing to their benevolent and active services, that the society is flourishing in the sixth year of its existence. Beyond the incidental expenses, the annual loss upon the manufactured articles is a mere trifle.

Produce.—The average amount and value of raw produce yearly raised in the parish, as nearly as can be ascertained, is as follows:

| | | | |
|-----------------------|---|---|----------|
| Grain, | - | - | L. 14485 |
| Potatoes and turnips, | - | - | 3603 |
| Hay, | - | - | 292 |
| Pasture, | - | - | 2920 |

L. 21,300

The thinnings of plantations may probably amount to L. 100 per annum.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Town.—There are no villages in the parish, and Elgin is the only town. It has been already stated that it is not a manufacturing place, and that the population are capitalists, professional men, retailers, artisans, and labourers. It has ten fairs annually for the sale of cattle, horses, &c. and a weekly market on Friday for grain, poultry, butter, and other articles of farm and garden produce. The small farmer generally sells his grain to the corn-factor, and the large farmer disposes of his barley to the brewer or distiller, or sends it with his wheat and oats to the Leith, London, and Liverpool markets. Some years ago a considerable traffick in wheaten flower was carried on with Aberdeen and some of the provincial towns of that and the neighbouring county of Banff, but of late this trade has rather declined. There is also a class in the town called meal-mongers, who purchase small quantities of oats, which they manufacture, and retail to the trades-people and labourers.

Police.—The magistrates have the superintendence of the police. They appoint a fiscal for the burgh, and occasionally hold courts for determining trifling debts and disputes concerning burgage property, and for the trial of petty offences committed within the

royalty. Excise and small debt courts are held by the Justices of the Peace, but since the Sheriff small-debt court came into operation, there is little business before the latter. About five years ago, the chief magistrate, Mr Lawson Junior, and some other public-spirited individuals, laid before the citizens a proposal for lighting the streets with gas, providing they would voluntarily assess themselves for a certain number of years, to defray the expense over L. 30, granted annually for this purpose by the magistrates, out of the common good. The proposal was almost unanimously acceded to,—a gas company was formed,—a gas manufactory built, and the subsequent winter the streets and shops, and many private houses, were lighted with gas. The matter continued on this footing till the passing of the new Scotch Burgh Police Bill, when the inhabitants adopted the lighting clause, and assessed themselves in the necessary sum, but by a majority negatived the other clauses. The principal streets had been previously causewayed, and had paved foot-paths, and the town-council being chosen commissioners of police, were appointed to enforce the provisions of the statute against the proprietors as to lighting, and the repairs of the pavements. No funds for watching and cleaning being placed at the disposal of the commissioners, they are not perhaps to be blamed that there is no nightly patrol for the protection of property, and that the streets are cleared of filth in a very imperfect and slovenly manner.

Means of Communication.—The inland means of communication in the town and parish are very ample. There is a post-office in the town and turnpike roads diverging in every direction. The great north road passes through the town,—another turnpike road strikes directly south, and leads to Rothies and the banks of the Spey, and another north to the sea-port of Lossiemouth. The commutation roads to Pluscarden, Mosstowie, and Blackhills, are in good repair. The Lossie is crossed by one iron and three stone arches, the most distant not more than a mile from the town. The mail-coach passes and repasses every day, and a letter despatched from London through the post-office reaches Elgin about three o'clock P. M. of the third day. There are daily mail-gigs to Lossiemouth and Burghead. A stage-coach starts for Inverness every lawful day at seven o'clock A. M. and returns at nine o'clock P. M. Another for Banff at half-past five o'clock A. M. where it communicates with a coach from Aberdeen, and returns at eight o'clock P. M. The Defiance coach from Edinburgh to Inverness passes and repasses through the town in the middle of every lawful day. There

are regular carriers to Aberdeen, Banff, and Inverness, and to all the adjacent villages. On the other hand sea-carriage is both tedious and expensive. The retailers in Elgin generally supply themselves with goods from the London market, which are carried in the smacks trading to Inverness, and landed at Burghead, if the weather permit. This subjects the dealer to an expense of nine miles of land carriage in addition to the freight, besides much delay occasioned by the trade only affording employment for a few such vessels. In consequence, light goods are frequently ordered to be sent by the steam-vessels to Aberdeen and forwarded by the carriers. The supply of coals for the town and neighbourhood is imported at Lossiemouth, and a good deal of grain is exported, but there is so little water in the harbour, that loaded vessels of small tonnage can only come in or go out at stream tides. The inconvenience and loss to the community arising from the want of a good and central harbour, have led to the formation of a Joint Stock company for erecting one at Stotfield point, a few hundred yards to the northward of the harbour of Lossiemouth. This spot having been surveyed and approved of by an eminent engineer, and a plan given, shares to a large amount were speedily disposed of; an application was made to Parliament and a bill passed last session, vesting the company with the requisite powers of management, levying shore dues, &c. and every thing is ready for proceeding with the work as soon as the season admits. If this undertaking is successful, of which there is the most sanguine hope, it will be of immense advantage to the trading and agricultural interests of the town and district. A direct communication with London and other markets for farm-stock and grain by steam would be immediately opened, and merchant goods and coals imported at much less expense of carriage, and with great regularity and expedition. The writer has been led to notice this projected improvement, though in another parish, not only on account of its importance to Elgin, but because the present harbour and village are the property of the town, and because the magistrates are shareholders in the new harbour to the extent of one-fourth of the sum estimated as sufficient to complete it.

Ecclesiastical State.—The parish church, in the centre of the town, is about eight miles distant from the westmost point of the parish, and nearly five from the south-east extremity. As three-fourths of the population reside in the town it could not be more conveniently situated. A missionary on the Royal Bounty being

placed in Pluscarden, very few of the country people have to travel more than three or four miles at most to church, and even some of these are still nearer to the neighbouring parish churches. The church was built in 1828, and can conveniently contain 1800 persons. Thirty-six free sittings are set apart for the poor. Four silver communion cups, the gifts of pious individuals, are the only benefactions on record. There is no manse, but in lieu of it, the heritors paying stipend agreed some years ago to pay the senior minister L. 50 per annum during his incumbency, or until they should build a manse. Each clergyman has a glebe of about four acres, which is presently rented at L. 18. The stipend, as modified in 1808, is a fraction under fifteen chalders of barley to each minister, and L. 5 for communion elements. As the sacrament of the Lord's Supper is dispensed twice a-year, it would require nearly double the allowance to defray the expense. It has been already observed, that there is a missionary in Pluscarden, supported by the Royal Bounty, by the interest of some legacies, and by the heritors and people, conformable to the regulations of the commission for managing his Majesty's gift. This mission has been established upwards of a century, and supplies the ordinances of the gospel and spiritual instruction to a population of about 600 souls, in the most remote district of the parish.

The sectarian places of public worship in the town are numerous, and are frequented by persons from every parish in the presbytery of Elgin. There are two chapels connected with the United Associate Synod of the Secession church; one with the Associate Synod of Original Seceders, an Independent chapel in connection with the Congregational Union of Scotland, an Episcopal, and a Catholic chapel,—the Catholic bishop residing in Enzie, Banffshire. The ministers of these chapels are paid by their congregations in seat rents and collections; and as a large proportion of the people attending the chapels of the Secession church are of the poorer classes, their stipends must be very small. Dissent does not appear to be on the increase, and divine service at the Established church is generally well attended by at least three-fourths of the respectable families of the town and parish. The number of communicants is about 800.

Religious Societies.—Bible and missionary societies have been established in the parish for many years; and the following is a probable average of their annual contributions; British and Foreign Bible Society, L. 20; Edinburgh Bible Society, L. 30; Mission-

ary Society, L. 24. Collections are also made periodically in the Established Church in aid of the General Assembly's Schools, the Indian Mission, and the funds of the Hibernian schools. The average amount of such collections yearly may be about L. 20.

Education.—There are thirteen schools in the parish, of which ten are in the town. The Elgin Academy is partly endowed, and partly supported from the town's funds, and the three schools of which it consists, though not perhaps technically, are in fact parochial schools, and most efficiently answer the same purpose. The trustees of the Dick bequest to the parochial schoolmasters of the counties of Moray, Banff, and Aberdeen, have not as yet admitted the teachers of the academy to any share of the fund under their management, but it is hoped, they will give the benefit of any ambiguity in the wording of the benevolent donor's settlements, to a seminary where education is conducted after the most approved method, with exemplary zeal and distinguished success. The school of industry and the free school of the Elgin institution are both endowed; four others in the town, two of which are for the education of young ladies, are unendowed; and one, an infant school, recently established, is supported by individual subscriptions and fees;—the other three in the landward part of the parish, are also unendowed. The branches taught in the academy, are English reading and writing, English grammar and composition, arithmetic, geography, practical mathematics, French, Latin, and Greek. A course of lectures on natural philosophy is occasionally delivered, and illustrated by a neat experimental apparatus, partly public, and partly the property of the mathematical teacher. In the ladies' schools are taught, English reading and grammar, and composition, writing, arithmetic, sewing, geography, drawing, music, French and Italian. The youths attending the other schools are instructed in the ordinary branches of education. The Bible is read, and the Shorter Catechism committed to memory in all the schools.

The salaries of the English and mathematical teachers of the academy are L. 45 each; that of the classical teacher is L. 50. They have no house or allowance for one, and the English and classical teachers are obliged by agreement with the magistrates to keep and pay assistants. The fees are, for English reading per quarter, 2s.; reading and writing, 3s.; English grammar, 2s. 6d.; Latin, 7s. 6d.; elocution, mathematics, French, and Greek, 10s. 6d.; arithmetic, 4s.; a course of geography, L. 1, 1s., and three sets of book-keeping L. 1, 1s. The interest of L. 200 was bequeath-

ed by the late James M^cAndrew Esq. of Elgin, to be given annually in prizes to the three boys in the Latin school who have made the greatest progress in the preceding year. The male and female teachers of the free school of the Elgin institution have a joint salary of L. 75. No fees are exacted, and orphans and the children of poor widows receive books. The house-governor and teacher of the school of industry has L. 55 per annum, and his maintenance and lodging in the institution. The teacher of the infant school has L. 25, the fees, and a house. The trades' school has a salary attached of L. 5 from the town's funds. The ladies' schools and one chance school depend wholly on fees. The schoolmasters in the landward part of the parish have each a small salary and a house from the heritor on whose property the school is situated, and some advantages from the tenantry of the district, and, including fees, their emolument may fluctuate from L. 25 to L. 30 per annum each. There are probably none of the young betwixt six and fifteen years of age of sound mind who cannot *read* or *write*; and the writer has not met with or heard of any person above the age of fifteen who cannot *read*, though there are no doubt a good many aged persons, particularly females, who cannot *write*. There are few parishes in Scotland better supplied with the means of education, and there does not appear to be any backwardness on the part of parents to give the advantages of it to their families. It is producing in a greater or less degree its usual beneficial effects on the moral habits and general welfare of the people.

Literature.—A circulating library has been long established in the town, and contains an extensive and valuable collection of history, travels, poetry, &c. carefully selected by the proprietor, and to which he is adding the best works for general readers as they are published. A small collection of books, selected by the teachers, has been provided for the use of the students attending the academy.

A literary association, consisting of twenty members, was instituted in 1818 in the town. The object of this association was to procure at a moderate expense four or five of the best periodicals, and such books as the members generally could not readily find access to. The periodicals and books are circulated according to rule among the members, and are afterwards bound and placed in a library. The institution has most satisfactorily answered its purpose, and is going on prosperously. A small annual subscription has already supplied a library of nearly 700 volumes. The

members of the association about two years ago, connected with it a reading-room, supplied with a sufficient number of daily London and provincial newspapers, to which many of the most respectable gentlemen of the town have become subscribers; but the reading-room is conducted without any interference with the funds or property of the original establishment. The Elgin Courant, a weekly newspaper, is published in the town on Friday morning.

Alms-Houses.—James VI. by royal charter, dated the last day of February 1620, granted to the provost, bailies, councillors, and community of the burgh of Elgin and their successors, the hospice or preceptory of Maison Dieu, founded for the aliment and support of certain poor and needy persons, with the right of patronage of the same, together with all the revenue belonging to the said hospice, for the support of certain poor and needy persons, according to the original establishment thereof, to maintain and support a teacher of music and other liberal arts, and to answer and promote the affairs of the burgh, because the common revenue was barely sufficient. There are lands also of considerable extent conveyed by the grant for the same purposes; but there is no evidence that they ever were in the possession of the magistrates, and probably the charter gave right only to the casualties of these lands, payable at the time to the hospital of Maison Dieu, the *dominium utile* being in the hands of lay impropiators. By virtue of this charter a Beid-house has been erected within the burgh, to contain four Beidmen having garden ground attached, and as far back as can be ascertained these four paupers have each received annually four bolls of barley, or about three imperial quarters, out of the rents of the preceptory lands.

Hospitals, Dispensaries, and Lunatic Asylums.—Grey's Hospital for the sick poor of the town and county of Elgin, was opened for the reception of patients in 1819. It was founded by Dr Alexander Grey of Calcutta, and the funds which he destined to its support are adequate to the expenditure. The average number of sick admitted to the hospital during a year is about 250, and the average number in it at one time is 26. Dr Dougal, a medical practitioner in Elgin, willed L. 15 per annum for the purchase of medicines, to be dispensed to the poor. This sum was handed over to the Trustees of Grey's Hospital by those to whom it had been left in trust, and medicines and advice are now given at the hospital to more than 300 out-patients annually. A pauper lunatic asylum, near the hospital, is just completed, and

will be supported from the interest of money subscribed, and a small board from the parishes who send the lunatics. It contains ten cells, and the benefit of it is confined to the insane poor within the county.

Elgin Institution for the support of old age and the Education of Youth.—This charity was founded and endowed by General Anderson, and consists of three branches. *1st*, An hospital for the support and maintenance of indigent men and women, not under fifty-five years of age, of decent, godly, and respectable character; persons answering this description from the burgh of Elgin to be preferred, and failing applications from those in the town, *then* from those in the parish, and failing both, *then* from any other part of the county. Five males and five females from the town are at present enjoying as inmates the comforts of the charity. *2d*, A school of industry for the support, maintenance, clothing, and education of male and female children of the labouring class of society whose parents are unable to maintain and educate them, and for placing and putting out the said children, when fit to be so, as apprentices to some trade or occupation, or employing them in such a manner as may enable them to earn a livelihood by their lawful industry, and make them useful members of society. Twenty-two boys and eighteen girls from every parish of the county, in proportion to the population, are reaping the benefits of the institution. On the death of two annuitants this branch will probably include twenty additional children. *3d*, An establishment of a master and mistress, properly qualified to conduct a free school for the education *only* of such male and female children whose parents may be in narrow circumstances, but still able to maintain and clothe their children. Of this class 230 children are receiving in the free school a gratis education suited to their station.

Friendly Societies.—The six incorporated trades are in one respect of the nature of friendly societies. From yearly assessments on the brethren of their respective crafts, they have a fund under the management of each corporation, which they distribute, in whole or in part, among their poor and decayed members and widows.

Guildry Charitable Fund.—This fund was established in 1714, and the members are all merchant guild-brethren. It arises from quarter pennies and admission fees of entrants. By good management and judicious investments in lands, of a part of their income always reserved, it has rapidly increased, and they now divide L. 250 annually among the widows, children, and decayed members, still

retaining every year a considerable sum, which is added to their sinking-fund.

Cumming's Beidmen.—William Cumming of Auchray, by deed of mortification, 12th October 1693, conveyed money and lands for the support of four poor, old, decayed or broken merchants, being residents within the town of Elgin, to the magistrates, and gave to them and his heir the right of presenting alternately. The interest of the money and the rent of lands amount to L. 71, 18s. 9d. which is equally divided among the four persons admitted to the charity.

Braco's Mortification 1729, of some lands to the town for the support of a decayed burgess, produces about L. 23. The Earl of Fife names to the charity.

Petrie's Mortification, of lands for defraying the education of six poor orphans or children within the parish of Elgin, is dated 1777, and is under the management of the kirk-session. Each of the children receive L. 4 annually, and have the benefit of the bursary for three years.

Grey's (the founder of the hospital) *Charity* for reputed old maids of the town of Elgin. This fund amounts to L. 2000, and will receive an addition of L. 1000 more on the death of Mrs Grey, the donor's widow, the annual interest of which is divided among the daughters of respectable but decayed families. The two clergymen and physicians of Elgin are the patrons.

Laing's Mortification, of a park of land, to be applied towards maintaining a decayed merchant, burgess, and guild brother, produces a rent of L. 5, 10s. per annum. The nearest relative of the donor living in the county is patron.

Elgin Savings Bank.—This bank commenced in 1815, and for the first year and a-half the amount of deposits was only L. 212, 11s. 10d. On the 30th May 1818, it was L. 478, 12s. 2d. After this it grew speedily into favour, for in 1820 the number of contributors was 222, and the amount deposited L. 2087, 5s. 9½d. In 1824, the contributors increased to 492, and the deposits to L. 4851, 12s. 11½d. From that year until 1832, there was a gradual decrease of deposits, averaging annually about L. 150, which was probably owing in part to the rate of interest having been reduced. Since 1832 the investments have exceeded the sums annually withdrawn by L. 320 on an average. At Whitsunday last the number of depositors was 556, and the amount of deposits about equal to what it was in 1824, and during the currency of the past half year

they have risen about L. 200. The monthly transactions may average from L. 130 to L. 150 of receipts and payments. The investments are made generally, it may almost be said exclusively, by the labouring class.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The average number of poor on the roll of the kirk-session receiving regular parochial aid is 160.—Of these about 30 receive a weekly allowance from 6d. to 3s. or on an average L. 3, 5s. per annum. About L. 60 are distributed half yearly among the remaining 130 poor, averaging 9s. annually to each. Besides this sum, they receive each coals to the value of 2s. 2d. and the interest of money and lands under the management of the magistrates for behoof of the poor, amounting to L. 23, 7s. 6d. The amount of church collections 1834, L. 150; donations from one heritor, L. 5; other persons, L. 42; interest at four per cent. for legacies and other funds destined for the relief of the poor under the management of the kirk-session, L. 1365, is L. 54, 15s. The casual supplies to the sick poor on the roll, and small salaries to the kirk-officer and beadle, consume the balance of contributions above what has been stated as regularly distributed.

No regular mode of procuring funds for the poor, besides that of church collections, has been adopted. The kirk-session, aware that an assessment on the heritors would increase at least twofold the applications for relief, have hitherto successfully laboured to avoid it, by a careful inquiry into the circumstances of the applicant, and a timely, though small, supply. It is believed, that, generally speaking, the poor are averse to seek relief until driven to it by necessity, and that they consider it a degradation to be put upon the poor's roll.

Prisons.—The number of prisoners confined in the Elgin jail in 1834 was *one* for murder, *one* for concealment of pregnancy, and *three* for assault. The jail is an old building, and the prisoners cannot be said to be well secured or well accommodated. The magistrates have the government and superintendence of it, and, in as far as they can, are attentive to the health, diet, and lodging of the persons confined. A new jail, in accordance with the improvements of the age in such buildings, will be very soon erected at the expense of the proprietors in the town and county.

Fairs.—Besides the ten annual fairs held near the town for the sale of horses, cattle, &c. there are two others in the town on the Fridays immediately preceding the terms of Martinmas and Whitsunday, for hiring farm-servants.

Inns, Alehouses, &c.—There are in the town and suburbs 33 licensed innkeepers, 21 spirit-merchants, and 10 tippling-shops, and in the country part of the parish one inn or public-house. This extraordinary number might be reduced at least one-half without any inconvenience to the public, and with much advantage to the morals of the inhabitants. Too little attention is paid to the character of some who receive licenses, and there is great reason to suspect that those who recommend them are influenced by other motives than the good of their fellow citizens. Many of the innkeepers are persons of good character, and to these the granting of licenses ought to be confined, but there are others of an opposite description, and whose houses are too often the haunts of folly and vice. The evils of the present system of indiscriminate licensing are too apparent to be denied, and an effort ought to be made by those who have the power to apply a remedy.

Fuel.—Peat or turf is used for lighting fires, but coal is almost the universal fuel of the town. The prime cost and freight of a keil of coals from Sunderland to Lossiemouth may be about L. 15, and the carriage to Elgin, five miles, about L. 4, 10s. The farmers on the outskirts of the parish partly burn peat or turf; but the cost of casting, drying, and driving is so great, that the use of coal is every year becoming more general among them.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The improvements in the agricultural implements, in the system of farming, and in the breed of stock,—in the education, dress, houses, and other comforts of the peasantry, are very striking and extensive since the last Statistical Report. The drainage,—the straightening and laying out of the arable fields,—the farm-steadings, and the plantations, give to the general aspect of the parish a look of cultivation, and management, and prosperity, which, at the former period, it did not possess. The means of communication are also most decidedly superior. It must be acknowledged, however, as has been already hinted, that there is still ample scope for improvement. A more general and adequate allowance from the land-owner for waste land brought under proper culture by the tenant, and for enclosing and building, should be granted; additional roads and planting are wanted, especially on the south side of the parish. The progress of improvement in the town is also very observable: Forty years ago there were no turnpike roads leading to or from it, no stage-coaches, no gas-work, no lighting, or side pavement to the streets, no hospital for the sick, no insti-

tution for the support of old-age, and the education of youth, no academy, no printing-press, or newspaper published in the town. A large proportion of the houses have been built within the above period, and their external appearance and interior arrangements are vastly superior. The houses then occupied by the most respectable families of the place are now the dwellings of ordinary tradesmen. The improvements still wanting in the town are, a more efficient police, water brought into the streets and houses by pipes, and the removal of that greatest of nuisances, the shambles. Lossie water filtered could be brought into the town, at an expense which the inhabitants would not grudge, if they once had experience of the convenience and comfort of having an abundant supply at their doors and in their houses.

Some attempts have been made to remove the slaughter-house and meat-market, but hitherto without success. An intelligent and public-spirited citizen has favoured the writer with the following observations on this subject : “ On the advantage, and indeed, the necessity, of removing from a crowded neighbourhood and the centre of the town, that sink of impurity and danger, the present slaughter-house, there cannot be two opinions. The removal of the present meat-market to a drier and more airy situation is indispensably necessary to the comfort and welfare of the community. It is too confined, and so filthy, that the mistresses of families are unable to attend it, and have therefore mostly abandoned the important duty of personally laying out the money of their families to the best advantage.” This duty is generally devolved on servants, from the cause mentioned. The shambles are the property of the town, and the magistrates must take the lead in any plan for their removal. Surely a central situation for a provision market, and a suitable one for a slaughter-house, could easily be found ; and if the town’s funds cannot afford the outlay for erecting the necessary buildings, there is no doubt that, if a well-digested plan were laid before the public, the capital necessary would very soon be subscribed by a joint stock company. There is hardly any other undertaking in which the magistrates could engage, which would tend so much to promote the comfort and economy of the community, and to induce respectable families to fix their residence in a town so desirable on account of its schools, its society, and its climate.

April 1835.

PARISH OF ST ANDREWS LHANBRYD.

PRESBYTERY OF ELGIN, SYNOD OF MORAY.

THE REV. W. LESLIE, MINISTER.*

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—LHANBRYD signifies in Gaelic the Church of St Bridget. It was united to that of St Andrews in 1782.

Climate.—This district is subject, in the spring season, to a succession of storms called, in the common language of the country, the borrowing days, the *Toochet's storm*, the *Gouk's storm*, (the equinoxial,) and the *gab of May*. The most unpleasant weather comes on about the last of these, a withering gale blowing cold from the thawing snow on the mountains of Norway and Denmark, and continuing steadily from the east, till near the summer solstice, equally injurious to vegetation and to animal life. The farmer suffers every summer by drought; it being computed that Moray and Nairn have forty dry days in the year more than any other county in the kingdom. It has by the rain-gage been ascertained that the quantity falling in the year is from 25 to 30 inches.

Hydrography and Geology.—The drainage of the Loch of Spynie, at the cost of nearly L. 10,000, is still imperfect; the outfall, at first on a level with the ebb in the port of Lossiemouth, was of late injudiciously made farther up the river, and without the least advantage, nearly a foot above that of the first level.

Upon its southern banks, the boundary of the parish for a mile, the late greatly esteemed John Brander, on the hypothesis that the coal of Brora, at the distance of 100 miles directly opposite on the other side of the frith, might be found about the same depth on his estate here, bored 97 feet through a bed of sandstone uniformly continuous, with the exception of a very thin layer of limestone at two or three different depths. This perforation is kept open and clearly indicated by a weighty stone put over it.

The Lossie, having now by courtesy the title of river, though but a brook in its ordinary state, being in this parish the drain of about

* Drawn up from notes furnished by Mr Leslie.

600 square miles, is nevertheless too inconsiderable to have been heard of in Egypt by Ptolemy, in the beginning of the second century, any more than its two conjoining brooks, the Lochty and the Lenoeh, winding through their own dun hills. It is certain, that the Lossie in bygone ages occupied at different times different channels in its progress to the sea. Embankments of earth to prevent the overflow of a spot were formed partially along the lower grounds adjacent to the river several years ago; and since the deeply disastrous flood in 1829 they have been improved into a style of magnificence and security on both sides of the river through the whole extent of the plain,—reared on a base of 20 feet broad, to the height of 8 or 10 feet, where the ground is low, slanting upwards to a trim walk along the top, of 3 or 4 feet in breadth. In one very obstructive bend of the river, a straight course of half a mile was then also opened, to the depth of more than 5 feet, in wideness more than 40 feet. After the first swell, which cleared out the new channel, its bottom was found a bed of clay, in which ridges formed by the plough in the direction of the shadow at one o'clock, accurately parallel and equal in breadth, were to admiration presented, which being now scarcely four feet above the level of the frith during the flood, suggests several interesting geological considerations, relating both to the surface of this part of the globe, and the scientific state of agriculture, before that deeply interesting alteration, which superinduced upon this corn field of clay, a bed of fertile sandy loam, over an extent of nearly 1000 acres to the thickness of nearly 6 feet; when it was thus cultivated, the frith could not have been so far within the land, and even the German Ocean must have been then at a lower level than it is now. Secure, however, as these costly embankments may be deemed at present, yet, if given up with presumptuous security to the burrowing of the aquatic rat and of rabbits, they will soon be found insufficient. In the excavation of the canal for the drain of the Loch of Spynie, there were six varieties of shells dug up, of which oysters and cockles bore the larger proportion, with some specimens of a petrification called Belemnite, of which there is as little known of as the *Cornu ammonis*. In the beach which shut in the eastern end of the lake from the sea, such large accumulations of oyster shells have been found as to have been carted off for manure. In a new course lately formed for the brook which works the mill of Lhanbryd, at the distance of seven miles southward from the shore, and more than two northward from the hill in which its component streamlets are united, there was turned out a boulder of more than

a ton weight of blue argillaceous limestone, having its mass confusedly mingled with a variety of petrified shells, in which the *Cornu ammonis* was conspicuous, and muscle shells bore the largest proportion. If this boulder had ever been detached from the rock of the same material at Brora, its transportation to its long undisturbed bed here, not three feet under the surface of the globe, is much more difficult to be accounted for, than that of the celebrated dwelling transported entire from the eastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea, to the western coast of the Adriatic.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Antiquities.—This parish had the credit of having preserved two Druidical monuments through all the mutations of nearly 3000 years, until lately when, for the sorry purpose of forming material for a road, and uniting a little spot of pasturage to a corn field, one of these objects was annihilated. The other, at the distance scarcely of a mile, is nearly entire.

III.—POPULATION.

| | | | |
|--|---|---|------|
| Amount of population in 1801, | - | - | 799 |
| 1811, | - | - | 869 |
| 1821, | - | - | 934 |
| 1831, | - | - | 1087 |
| Number of families in the parish, | - | - | 215 |
| chiefly employed in agriculture, | | | 165 |
| in trade, manufactures, or handicraft, | | | 26 |

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.—This parish is now, with little exception, occupied in farms of from 100 to about 400 or 500 acres, and by gentlemen of skill with adequate capital.

| | |
|--|------|
| The number of acres in cultivation is probably about | 4000 |
| never cultivated, (cannot be stated.) | |
| under wood, | 650 |

The rental of the parish is betwixt L. 3000 and L. 4000.

Manufactures.—In this parish there is one public manufacture of malt. Mr Brown carries on the business of a distiller at Linkwood, having invested a large capital in the requisite buildings and utensils, all in the most commodious arrangement, and of the most substantial construction, in the malting, grinding, brewing, distilling, and in the store. The stills are respectively of the contents of 400 and of 170 gallons, manufacturing yearly 1200 quarters of barley, and producing from 16,000 to 20,000 gallons of fine spirit, consumed mainly between the rivers Spey and Ness; a small proportion only being disposed of in London, and in some of the larger cities of this kingdom; the rivalry in brandy, rum, and gin, being inconsiderable. But a formidable competition is maintained by the great distilleries in the south of Scotland, which

import a coarser and a cheaper spirit than, in the circumstances of the distillers here, can be produced.

Where this parish presses so closely on the city of Elgin as to have the gentle Lossie only intervening, there are two other manufactories,—the very respectable manufactory of wool, begun by Alexander Johnston, Esq. which employs about 50 people in completing cloth from 4s. to 1s. the yard, with blankets, flannel of different degrees of fineness, fancy articles, chiefly of wool, which are all disposed of mostly in the country.

At Newmill there is also established a cast iron foundry, which, though upon a small scale, is of great convenience in the country, and receives increasing encouragement.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Ecclesiastical State.—The kirk is as commodious for the people as in landward parishes kirks generally are. About 400 persons form the ordinary amount of the congregation. The stipend is 128 cwt. 90 lb. and 9 oz. of oat-meal,—of bear, 81 qrs. 1 bushel, 1 peck, and 14 pints,—and in cash, burdened with the cost of the communion, L. 6, 11s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. All the families in the parish, except three or four Dissenting or Seceding, attend the Established Church.

Education.—The endowment of the parish school, including the yearly interest of L. 27, 15s. 6d., bequeathed by a distinguished ancestor of the family of Fife, may be estimated almost at the highest allowed by the 43 Geo. III. cap. 54; and the accommodation is better than that act has provided. His fees may amount to L. 10 per annum. The people are all quite sensible of the advantages of education. With scarcely any exception they can all read, and with few exceptions, they can write; although there are many who do not write often, and a great many also who add nothing to their stock of knowledge by their reading. There is no occasion for any other besides the parish school. Although not permanently endowed, it would be improper to omit the mention of Mr Barclay's private academy at Calcots. That gentleman teaches every thing requisite for our national universities, and for the business of life. The number of his pupils at present (the sons of respectable families in other parishes) is 27, in addition to his own sons.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The funds for the poor, after deducting expenses, amount to about L. 36 yearly. The number of poor at present is 42.

April 1835.

PARISH OF DUFFUS.

PRESBYTERY OF ELGIN, SYNOD OF MORAY.

THE REV. ALEXANDER BRANDER, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name, Extent, &c.—THIS parish, the name of which is supposed to be derived from the Gaelic word "*Dubuist*" signifying "black lake," and having reference to the lake of Spynie now drained, or to some other lake of which no vestiges remain, extends along the south side of the Moray Frith for nearly 6 miles, and having an average breadth of about 3 miles. Its figure is that of an irregular parallelogram, bounded to the north by the sea, and on the other points by the adjoining parishes of Drainie, New Spynie, and Alves.

Topographical Appearances.—Along the coast, and for half a mile inland, the surface is for the most part a meager green "*benty*" pasture. All this ground had formerly, it is believed, been a rich cultivated soil, but was overblown with sand from the western beach, at the same time probably that the large estate of Culbin in Nairnshire was entirely destroyed by a similar calamity. The sand has long ceased to blow; and a great portion of this space, as well as of land more partially covered, has been brought into culture by the joint efforts of enterprise and industry. All the rest of this parish is arable, and in a state of complete cultivation. It presents in its general aspect an entire and unbroken level, with the exception of an eminence called the hill of Roseisle, and an artificial mound, upon which stand the ruins of the castle of Duffus,—which two acclivities serve, in a considerable degree, to diminish the tameness of a landscape, which, though at certain seasons rich and even beautiful, offers little of the grand or picturesque to gratify the eye of taste. It exhibits, however, what is perhaps better and more pleasing to the eye of benevolence, fertile, rich, and well-tilled fields, occupying the industry, and supplying the wants of many peaceful and happy families. In the western district of the parish the soil is a black earth, in some places a good deal mixed with sand, but in gene-

ral of excellent quality and great productiveness. The eastward district is a deep rich clay, resembling that of the Carse of Gowrie, to which noble tract of country the plain of Duffus bears also externally a degree of similarity, wanting, however, its princely river and wide spreading groves,—grievous wants to be sure, yet not altogether irremediable, since the latter defect has been so far amended by one of the smaller proprietors on his ground, and promises to be still farther rectified by judicious improvements now in progress upon the estate of the principal heritor. The ground is in fact generally too valuable to be devoted to extensive plantations; but the plan of hedging and hedge-growing, which imparts such richness to many districts of England equally flat with this, would, it is thought, afford much protection to the cattle and the crops, as well as greatly embellish the district. This seems, indeed, the only improvement which it requires, and as peculiarly suited to it, it is to be hoped, that the system so tastefully and efficiently begun will be gradually and successfully extended.

The sea coast at the east end of this parish is rocky, and very bold, (although a mile or two west, it subsides into a level sandy beach,) and contains some large and remarkable caverns, accessible on foot at low water, and which, it is probable, formed in earlier times a secure and favourite resort of those engaged in contraband traffick. Towards the west extremity of the parish, a small rock or promontory of land runs boldly into the sea, forming a conspicuous object in the navigation of the frith. It was formerly the site of a Roman fortification, and is now that of a populous and thriving village.

Climate.—The temperature of this parish, in common with that of the county, is remarkably mild for its latitude. The superior earliness and warmth of the plains of Morayshire are such, that harvest often commences here simultaneously with that in the Lothians, and many parts of England. The climate of this district, compared with that of the neighbouring counties, and of Britain generally, is so genial, that physicians of eminence acquainted with it have declared that they would prefer it to Devonshire for the winter. In the season 1829-30, the winter was greatly milder here than at London or Paris, or even (during its brief rigor) at Rome. More is suffered from cold in spring, particularly during the first ten days of May, than during the depth of what are called the winter months. Comparatively little rain falls in this quarter, though, from the nature of the soil, it occasionally lies long.

The wind blows almost three-fourths of the year from the west or south-west; the east wind, however, is very keen and severe at the spring season alluded to, and occasional storms come from the north and north-west, but they are rare and of short continuance. It is difficult to say whether the existing state of the weather greatly affects the health of the inhabitants, though necessarily from their pursuits much exposed to the "skye influences." Fever is the malady which seems most prevalent amongst them; pulmonary complaints are not uncommon among the agricultural part of the community, but of rare occurrence among the seafaring portion of it. "It is a truth," says the former Statistical Account of Duffus, "which no mere Englishman will readily believe, that in this comparatively rude part of Britain, the itch is less frequent in proportion to its population than in the British capital." It is a still more gratifying fact, that this loathsome disorder is now all but extinct.

The Moray Frith bounds this parish on the north, and is about thirty miles in breadth betwixt it and the opposite coast of Sutherland. Its usual colour is a rather deep blue, varied by green where the bottom is rocky; it often exhibits a luminous phosphorescent appearance at the approach of storms; but its tides do not rise high, fortunately, else the plains of Duffus, Drainie, Leuchars, and Innes, which lie but a few feet above its ordinary level, would be subject to frequent and disastrous inundations.

Hydrography.—There are few springs throughout this parish, and none of what are called "mineral waters," though the water is in several places impregnated with iron. One sainted spring situated near the shore, and welling deliciously out of the pure sand, deserves mention, as a former resort of pilgrims, and still an object of superstitious curiosity to the peasantry of the county. No river, indeed scarcely a rivulet, takes its course through the parish, owing to the flatness of the country; this is both very inconvenient, and extremely disadvantageous to the people.

There is now no lake properly speaking in this parish, though the loch of Spynie when full used to extend into it for a mile or two. Indeed, it formerly lay within so short a distance of the castle of Duffus, that its moat was thence supplied; but in its present reduced dimensions from draining, it is entirely without the bounds of the parish of Duffus.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Antiquities.—Several interesting monuments of former times remain. Upon a gentle eminence, or rather mound, which bears

many marks of artificial construction, stand the ruins of the castle of Duffus, the ancient seat of the Lords of that name,—a branch of the noble house of Sutherland, which still bears the title (recently restored from attainder) though it now possesses no property in the district. It was a square tower about 20 feet high, and 5 feet thick, with a parapet, ditch, drawbridge, and other appendages of a fortified baronial residence, and its date of erection is fixed in the reign of David I. who (it is said, but on no good authority,) gave a grant of the ground to a family of the name of Cheyne, which built the castle in this defensive form, (because they had been guilty of some crime in France,) which exposed them to persecution. The walls of the castle are still pretty entire on the west side, having been built with run lime; and it appears to have been a place of considerable strength as well as importance, having been partly surrounded by the lake of Spynie, and no place within several miles having sufficient elevation to command it,—the surrounding country besides having been then marshy and difficult of access. Its orchard and garden are still in preservation; but the castle itself has long ceased to be occupied. An old woman was lately alive, whose mother recollected to have seen the celebrated Claverhouse (Viscount Dundee) on a visit to the Lord Duffus of that day.

Very indistinct remains of what is supposed to have been a Roman camp occur on a spot near the west end of the parish, with a paved road leading to it; but its outline and parts are so much obliterated as to elude description, and no tradition exists to aid inquiry on the subject.

Several tumuli or “cairns” are to be seen on the heights along the shore, marking, it may be presumed, the graves of distinguished warriors, but none have been lately opened. In trenching land on the estate of Inverugie, stone coffins have been occasionally discovered, containing, however, nothing remarkable.

Some years ago there stood about the centre of this parish an obelisk, which was conjectured to have been erected by Malcolm II. in commemoration of a victory over the Danes under Camus, and near this monument there was a village called Kaim, which was supposed to be the village mentioned by Buchanan as retaining the memorable name of Camus. This village is now removed; but the place retains the name of Kaim.

But the most interesting relict of antiquity is the remains of fortifications at Burghhead, by some maintained to be Roman, and by

others accounted Danish, but very probably occupied by both nations. General Roy, in his learned and elaborate work upon the Roman Antiquities of Britain, makes Burghead the most northerly regular station of that illustrious people, the "*Ptoroton*" of Richard of Cirencester, and the "*Alata Castra*" of Ptolemy of Alexandria; and supports his statements by correct references to its distance respectively from *Jussis* (Spey river,) and *Barris* (Forres;) and by several plausible arguments, he places Ptoroton at the end of the ninth, and commencement of the tenth iter of Richard; and mentions it as the chief town of the Vacomagi, and enjoying the privileges and immunities of Roman citizenship. A deep well, built with a regularity and elegance seemingly beyond the attainment of a rude people like the Danes, has been recently discovered, and adds another argument to these in favour of General Roy's position, which one is ready enough to admit, upon even slenderer grounds; because one would wish to believe that the spot he daily treads had been familiar to the footsteps of that imperial race, and would gladly confer upon a place presenting few natural attractions the charm of a reflected classical fame. It seems probable that the Danes who invaded Scotland about 1008, seized this promontory and occupied it as a stronghold until they were driven from the country; bestowing on it the name of Burgus, which it still retains, but slightly changed, being at present called "the brough" by the common people. These old works were divided into two parts, a higher and a lower; and presented no less than four strong ramparts (built with oaken logs) towards the small isthmus upon which the village of Burghead now stands; in the gradual extension of which these interesting remains have been much defaced. The trench which insulated the promontory has in the course of time been filled up, and the rectangular platform at its summit lowered and partially covered with buildings.

Land-owners.—The principal land-owners in the parish are, Sir Archibald Dunbar of Northfield, Baronet, and his eldest son Archibald Dunbar, Esq.—to which family half the parish belongs; Sir William Gordon Cumming of Altyre and Gordonstoun, Bart.; Charles L. Cumming Bruce, Esq. of Roseisle and Kinnaird; William Stuart, Esq. of Inverugie; Thomas Brander, Esq. of Roseislehaugh; and William Young Esq. of Burghead.

III.—POPULATION.

The whole resident population of the parish of Duffus in the year 1662, inferred from the average number of baptisms in that

and the two succeeding years, as compared with those of 1831, was 1482 souls ; and they appear to have resided chiefly in the four villages of Burghead, Roseisle, Kaim, and Kirktown, and in the hamlets of College, Buthill, Starwood, Inskiel, and Unthank.

| | | | |
|---------------------|---|---|------|
| Population in 1801, | . | - | 1839 |
| 1811, | - | - | 1623 |
| 1821, | - | - | 1950 |

According to the census of 1831, which was taken here with the greatest exactness, the population of this parish was distributed as follows :

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|------------|
| In the village of Burghead, | - | 749 |
| of Port Cumming, | - | 197 |
| of Hopeman, | - | 445 |
| of New Duffus, | - | 198 |
| In country and landward district, | - | 755 |
| | | <hr/> 2344 |

The chief apparent causes of the increasing population are improvements in agriculture, extension of the fisheries, and more general division of labour.

The yearly average of recorded births (and care is taken to have all regularly registered) for the last seven years, is 67 ; that of the deaths may be estimated at 14, though in this particular the registration is not so correct ; and that of the marriages at 15.

In 1821, a year for which there exist the best possible data, the actual number of persons of various ages were respectively as under,

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------|---|-------|-----------|---|---------|------------|
| Under fifteen years, | - | males | 406 | - | females | 382 |
| fifteen to thirty, | - | | 232 | - | | 238 |
| thirty to fifty, | - | | 186 | - | | 239 |
| fifty to seventy. | - | | 94 | - | | 120 |
| Above seventy years, | - | | 25 | - | | 28 |
| | | | <hr/> 943 | | | <hr/> 1007 |
| | | | | | | 943 |

Total of all ages, 1950

| | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|-----|
| Number of families in the parish, | - | - | - | - | 533 |
| chiefly employed in agriculture, | - | - | - | - | 100 |
| in trade, manufactures, or handicraft, | | | | | 88 |

And by the same return the average number of children in each family under ten years of age was found to be $1\frac{1}{4}$ nearly.

The only families of independent fortune resident in the parish are those of three of the heritors, Mr Dunbar of Northfield ; Mr Stuart, and Mr Brander. The six proprietors already named are all (and they alone are) possessed of land of the yearly value of L. 50 and upwards.

The people on the whole enjoy in a considerable degree the

comforts and advantages of society. Their general character is intelligent and industrious, as well as moral and religious. No poaching, smuggling, or any species of unlawful traffic prevails amongst them.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.—

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Extent of arable English Acres in the parish of Duffus, | 5,381 |
| In pasture, - - - - - | 2,962 |
| Under wood, - - - - - | 310 |
| | <hr/> 8,653 |

No part of this parish remains in a state of undivided common. Little of the land which does lie waste would repay the expense of cultivation.

Scotch firs in too large a proportion with all the kinds of hard wood, occur in the plantations which are (with one exception) well managed, as regards thinning, periodical felling, pruning, &c.

Rent of Land.—Some of the land is rented at L. 2, 10s. to L. 3 per acre, but the average rent of arable land, including pasture, let in potatoes with the arable ground, may be stated at L. 1, 6s. 6d. per English acre.

Rate of Wages.—Labourers at farm and other work earn in the long day 1s. 8d. and in the short 1s. 4d; tradesmen gain 2s. 6d. in summer, and 2s. in winter; ploughmen are boarded in families, and their wages are from L. 9 to L. 12 a-year.

Husbandry.—Considerable attention has of late been paid to improving the breed of cattle, aided much by premiums offered by the Morayshire Farmers Club,—the breed being locally known as Morayshire, and somewhat resembling the Highland breed, but of more weight. The general rotation of cropping is the six-shift with two years grass; but some of the strong clay land is wrought in a four-shift series with one year grass. Most farms are tolerably well drained and in a good state of tillage, and generally held on leases of nineteen years' duration, affording reasonable allowance and opportunity for improvement. The farm-buildings are mostly straw thatched, but substantial and of suitable extent for the size of the farms, and in general in good order. On several farms, the property of Sir W. Gordon Cumming, the tenants are reclaiming waste land by deep trenching at an expense of about L. 10 per Scotch acre. Lime has within these few years been extensively used as a manure by the more opulent farmers, and with decided success.

Produce.—The gross amount of raw produce raised in the parish is supposed to be as follows:

| | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|-----------|---|---|
| Grain | - | - | - | L. 17,613 | 0 | 0 |
| Hay, pasture grass, turnips, and potatoes, | - | - | - | 4,193 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | <hr/> | | |
| | | | | L. 21,806 | 0 | 0 |

Quarries.—The quarries which occur here are of sandstone and limestone. The former are let for L. 60 of annual rent, while the latter average L. 27, 10s. and yield about 3500 bolls of lime sold at 3s. 6d. per boll (Moray barley measure.)

Fishings.—There are three kinds of fishing carried on in this parish, viz, the salmon, the herring, and the white fisheries. The first of these is acquired by stake-nets erected at the village of Burghead, to the proprietor of which it yields L. 100 per annum. The herring fishery was for many years extremely fortunate and profitable on this coast, but has for the last few seasons been very unsuccessful. Shell-fish are not abundant, but the supply of all the ordinary varieties of white fish is plentiful and excellent. About eighty boats are generally congregated in autumn for the herring fishery; and ten boats are employed during the year at the white fishing, the value of which may be from L. 200 to L. 300 per annum.

Navigation.—Burghead is the only port (since the decay of Hopeman harbour) frequented by vessels, and it is visited by perhaps 400 in the course of a year. The number of ships belonging to it is twelve, measuring 738 tons register, and amongst these are regular traders to London, Leith, Liverpool, Aberdeen, &c.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Means of Communication.—This parish is distant about three miles (at its south border) from Elgin, the market, post, and county town, with which it enjoys easy communication by means of a turnpike road at its west, and a good commutation road at its east end. A light currie conveys the mails to the villages of Duffus, Hopeman, and Burghead, at each of which there are branch post-offices.

Villages.—These just named, with another called Port-Cumming, are the principal villages in the parish of Duffus. New Duffus, on the estate of Sir A. Dunbar, Bart. is a remarkably neat, regular, and cleanly village, the prettiest, probably, in the county, except the beautiful and picturesque little town of Rothes. Hopeman, on the coast, though regularly built, is extremely dirty, and its harbour has been of late allowed to go almost completely to wreck. Port-Cumming is also a straggling and dirty village. Burghead is large, populous, and for the most part well kept; it possesses a good harbour, erected about twenty-four years ago, by subscription, to which Go-

vernment contributed L. 2000. Several large and commodious houses (including an excellent inn) have been built of late years; and the enterprising proprietor has constructed baths for the accommodation of summer visitors, who frequent the place in considerable numbers. Regular communication with London, Leith, &c. by traders and steam ships, a daily post and carriers to and from Elgin, comfortable lodging houses, and pleasant sea walks, add to its advantages as a watering-place.

Ecclesiastical State.—The parish church, (of which Sir A. Dunbar of Northfield is patron,) is very inconveniently situated at the eastern extremity of the parish; which evil, however, is less felt, since the erection of a chapel of ease at Burghead. It was thoroughly repaired in 1782, and is still substantial, but, like most of the old churches in Scotland, constructed without the least regard to appearance, comfort, or commodious arrangement. The reverse is the case with regard to the manse, which was built in 1830, and is a very handsome and comfortable house, with a most compact and convenient square of offices at a proper distance. The glebe contains nine acres of good ground, two of which are occupied with garden, orchard, &c. and the stipend is 120 bolls of barley, with the same quantity of meal, and allowance for communion expenses. There is a chapel of ease to the Established church situated at Burghead, the clergyman of which is paid partly by the seat rents, and partly by the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge and the Committee for managing the Royal Bounty. His stipend is about L. 70 per annum, and a house has lately been built for him by voluntary subscription. There is a Secession meeting-house in the village of Burghead, but not always open, from the scantiness and poverty of the congregation. An Episcopalian chapel, near Kaim, is attended by a very limited but respectable congregation. Divine service is well attended at church, and also at the several chapels, but it were difficult, if not impracticable, to ascertain the number of families which resort to each. Fully three-fourths of the population, however, attend the Established Church; and twelve families are Episcopalian. The number of communicants at the parish church is about 400.

Education.—There are in whole eight schools within this parish, four of which are taught by male teachers, and four by females. Of these the most important are the parochial school and that of the General Assembly at Burghead, both well conducted and attended, and affording instruction in the usual branches of education,

Latin and Greek, mathematics, geography, grammar, writing, and reading. The number of pupils attending the different schools within the parish amounts at present to nearly 300, of whom the two seminaries specially mentioned engross one-half.

The parish school salary is the maximum allowed by law, and the school fees, bating those of paupers and bad debts, may amount annually to L. 12, or upwards, and the teacher possesses the limited statutory accommodations,—with the prospect of sharing in “the Dick bequest.” It is believed there are no young persons (of competent age) within the parish who cannot read and write, (though many adults, especially among the seafaring part of the community, are destitute of these advantages,) which shows that parents and the people in general are alive to the benefits of education, and anxious to secure them for their families.

Libraries.—The only public libraries in this parish are on the itinerating plan; one being already in circulation, and another expected to be procured in a short time. There is a public reading room in the village of Burghead.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The number of poor receiving parochial aid is at present 81, and the amount of contributions for their relief (almost entirely from church collections,) is from L. 50 to L. 56 a-year, to which the non-resident heritors have of late added liberal donations. The total sum, however, when divided, furnishes but a miserable pittance, the average being 12s. a-year to each pauper; and holds out little temptation to the poor to solicit parish relief, which, with a commendable spirit of independence, they are still slow and reluctant to claim.

Inns, &c.—The number of small inns and alehouses (often very carelessly licensed,) is very great, and their effects on the morals and circumstances of the people are most pernicious and deplorable, though not more so here than elsewhere.

Fuel.—Coals are the fuel chiefly used, with the addition of wood and peat, but the last is comparatively unfrequent.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The most striking differences betwixt the present state of the parish, and that exhibited in the last Statistical Account, are briefly these: A decided and palpable improvement has taken place in agriculture;—the farms being now held on regular leases, well-drained and cultivated;—the ordinary as well as the gentlemen farmers being comfortable in their circumstances and dwellings, and able, consequently, to avail themselves of new improvements in farm

implements, to procure good horses and cattle, and to maintain them in good order, though at present the low price of agricultural produce prevents their realizing all the amendments in husbandry of which the exceedingly rich soil of this parish is susceptible. The roads have undergone wonderful improvements, having been almost impassable in winter twenty-five years ago; but much still remains to be done in this respect, the facilities of internal communication being limited by the inadequacy of the commutation funds for making and repairing roads. Many waste places have been planted, and wood otherwise disposed for profit alike and ornament. The draining of the lake of Spynie, from which so much was expected by the projectors, has ameliorated some portions of land in this parish; but elsewhere has totally failed to fulfil the golden hopes cherished regarding it. The building of Burghead harbour has greatly enlarged that village, and increased the trade and opulence of the parish and county,—the herring and salmon fishery, and the extension of steam-navigation, adding also to this increase. A very great change has taken place in the circumstances and manners of the people. They are now better fed and better lodged, less superstitious in their ideas, and more refined in their habits. Their houses and persons are more cleanly, and their dress more expensive and tasteful. It may be doubtful, however, whether they are more temperate or upright. The very amount of the poors' funds proves the increase of wealth, exhibiting an advance from L. 15 to L. 56 per annum, and shews *inter alia*, that this northern parish has not lagged far behind the rest of Scotland in her rapid march of improvement during last half century.

April 1835.

PARISH OF URQUHART.

PRESBYTERY OF ELGIN, SYNOD OF MORAY.

THE REV. JAMES MACLEAN, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—THE name *Urquhart* appears to be compounded of three Gaelic words, viz, *oire*, a coast, an edge, a brink,—*fad*, long,—and *amhan*, a river or water; and would seem to have been imposed to denote the great length of sea coast by which the parish is bounded on one of its sides. That this etymology is the true one, “appears highly probable from two circumstances; of which one is, that the name *Urquhart* is pronounced by Highlanders, when speaking Gaelic, *Urachadan*, which differs very little in sound from the three Gaelic words above-mentioned, when joined in one, and pronounced by a Highlander: the other, that the two Highland parishes of the same name are similarly bounded on one side; *Urquhart* in Ross-shire by the Frith of Dingwall, and *Urquhart* in Inverness-shire by Lochness,—the line of coast in each being of very considerable length.”

Boundaries, &c.—The parish of *Urquhart* is bounded on the north by a line of sea coast 5 miles in length, extending from the mouth of the river *Lossie* on the west, to that of the river *Spey* on the east; and an equilateral triangle erected on this line as a base, gives a pretty correct idea of its shape or figure. It excludes from the sea the two contiguous parishes, *St Andrews Lhanbryd* on the west, and *Speymouth* on the east, which two parishes meet where the parish of *Urquhart* terminates on the south. The barony of *Garmouth*, situated in the angle formed by the river *Spey* and the sea coast, was annexed, *quoad sacra*, to the parish of *Speymouth*; but the teinds of that barony still form a part of the fund from which the incumbent of *Urquhart* derives his income.

Topographical Appearances.—The sea coast, through its whole extent, is a sandy beach, with the exception of a small rock called “*The Bear’s Head*,” not visible at high water. The shore has no creek or landing-place capable of receiving or accommodating so much

as a fishing boat. The small lake, called the Loch of Cotts, having been drained about thirty-three years ago, there is now no lake in the parish; neither are there hills in it deserving the name, yet the names of places would indicate that it abounded in both. It must appear somewhat strange that the elevation of places called Longhill, Broomhill, Lochhill, Gladhill, and Hills, should not exceed twenty-five feet above the level of the sea; and that the inhabitants of Easter Lochs, and Wester Lochs should be but indifferently supplied with water even for domestic purposes. There is no river in the parish; the only streams which run through it are three small brooks or rivulets, on one of which there are two mills, one for grinding corn, and the other for sawing timber; on another of them a corn mill has been lately erected by a tenant in the neighbourhood, as a speculation, and is sufficiently employed. Thirlage being abolished, the tenants are at liberty to grind their corns at any mill they please.

With the exception of a plain of about $2\frac{1}{2}$ square miles on the north-west, elevated not more than ten feet above the level of the sea, the surface of this parish is unequal and waving, but no where so steep as to render more than two horses necessary for drawing the plough. The general appearance of this parish is beautiful, the moors having been long since planted, and every barren hillock in the arable part of it covered with a clump of fir trees.

Finfan Well.—Near the line which divides Urquhart from Speymouth, at a place called Finfan, there is a well which is resorted to in the summer season by a few invalids, (not more perhaps than five or six) for the recovery of their health. It does not appear that the water of it has been analyzed, but its taste and smell resemble those of the Strathpeffer spa, and its effects are said to be the same; and it might have attained to equal celebrity had it had the good fortune to be recommended with the eloquence and zeal by which the late Dr Morrison brought the Strathpeffer spa into such high repute. General Sir James Duff, who till lately was in the habit of spending a part of the summer at Innes House, built a neat cottage at Finfan, and placed a person in it to keep the well and furnish water to occasional visitors. Sir James, while at Innes House, visited this well almost every day; owing to which circumstance, and the trouble and expense he put himself to respecting it, it is now usually called Sir James's well.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Antiquities.—About half a mile from the church, and near to

Innes House, the remains of a Druidical temple are still to be seen, consisting of nine tall stones fixed in the earth, and placed in a circle, the entrance to which, fronting the east, has a stone on each side taller than the rest.

In a hillock, called the cross-hillock of Kempston, there was lately found a human skeleton in a reclining posture, with its head to the north-east. It crumbled quickly to dust when exposed to the air.

A hillock, or barrow, on the farm of Meft, on being opened, was found to contain two very rude urns full of ashes and burnt bones.

In the moor (now covered with wood) about a mile and a half east from the church, there is a rising ground almost entirely surrounded by a trench, and which, if tradition may be credited, was a Danish camp. Near it there is a hollow called the “Innocents Howe,” where, it is said, that the women and children of the natives had taken shelter, and that the Danes, having discovered their retreat, put them all to death.

No vestige of the richly endowed priory of Urquhart now remains; its site only is indicated by the name *Abbey well*, still given to the fountain which supplied the monks with water. Its ample possessions shared the fate of the property of the church throughout the kingdom in the reign of James VI. The lordship of Urquhart, the lands of Fochabers, and some other lands in this country, together with a part of the salmon fishing of the Spey, which all belonged to this priory, were seized by the crown, and granted partly to court favourites, and partly as rewards to champions of the Reformation.

Modern Buildings.—Innes House and the grounds around it are particularly attractive of notice. The house, a large, tall, irregular building, was for a long period the residence of the lairds of Innes, and is now that of James Duff, Esq. by whom it has been rendered one of the most elegant and commodious mansions in this county, and by whom also the grounds around it have been laid out in excellent taste. The only other mansion-house in the parish is that of Leuchars, a more modern structure, and much smaller than Innes House, but in thorough repair, and a most comfortable residence for the gentleman who now occupies it as a tenant.

Exclusive of the barony of Garmouth, which, as has been stated, is not in this parish *quoad sacra*, and with the exception of two or three very small farms on the eastern side which belong to the Duke of Gordon, the whole landed property of it was acquired,

partly by purchase, and partly by excambion, by the late James Earl of Fife; and, under a trust-deed executed by that Earl, has, since his death, been managed by trustees.

III.—POPULATION.

For nearly a century previous to 1755, the annual average of baptisms recorded in the session register was double what it has been in the last seven years, and hence the parish must have been then considerably more populous than it is at present; but probably not so much more so, as the greater number of births would indicate, a greater number of children having died then, than die now, owing to the small-pox and other diseases not being now prevalent, or having ceased to be fatal, except in a few instances.

| | | |
|--|---|------|
| Population in 1801, | - | 1023 |
| 1811, | - | 936 |
| 1821, | - | 1003 |
| 1831, | - | 1019 |
| The number residing in Urquhart, the only village of the parish is | | 160 |
| of families in the parish is, | - | 220 |

In this village there are about twelve tradesmen, consisting of shopkeepers, masons, wrights, blacksmiths, shoemakers, and tailors, but these with only four exceptions, occupy crofts of land, so that the whole parish may be said to be agricultural. The annual average of baptisms in the last seven years is $18\frac{5}{7}$, of marriages $5\frac{3}{7}$. There is no register of deaths.

Character of the People.—The people are shrewd, intelligent, industrious and well-behaved. They have all of them been taught to read and write; and though they cannot talk fluently on religious subjects, they seem sensible of their obligations to live in the fear of God and in the practice of Christian duties. Their attendance on the public ordinances of religion is upon the whole regular.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture, &c.—The number of Scotch arable acres in this parish may be stated at 3100, and the average rent per acre at L. 1, 5s. The valued rent is L. 5567, 15s. 6d. Scots. There are six farms of more than 100 acres each. With the exception of about 120 acres possessed by the villagers of Urquhart, in lots of from two and a-half to seven acres each, the rest of the parish is divided into farms, varying in size from 20 to 100 acres. The number of tenants qualified to vote at the election of a Member of Parliament for the county is 21.

The extent of waste land may be stated at about 200 acres, and of woods, all planted by the late James Earl of Fife, at 2478, consisting chiefly of Scotch firs. They are thinned annually by

sales, partly of decayed trees for fuel, but chiefly of young trees for hurdles, and full grown ones for rafters and deals. Of late years, there have been planted annually in the parish from 20 to 30,000 hardwood trees, but very few Scotch firs. The woods appear to be all in a thriving state.

Husbandry.—The soil is light and sandy, generally of a kindly nature, and well adapted for producing turnips, potatoes, barley, grass, and oats, to which crops the cultivator till within these few years chiefly confined himself; but his great object now is to raise as much wheat as possible; and, accordingly, an eighth, and in some instances, a fifth part of the farm is sown with wheat; whether to the advantage of the farmer upon the whole may admit of a doubt; his inducement to adopt this management appears to be, that wheat is the grain most easily and readily converted into money to meet the rent and expenses.

The rotation of cropping most common in this parish is, *1st*, turnips and potatoes; *2d*, wheat and oats; *3d*, grass, (of which but a small proportion is made into hay); *4th*, grass (pastured); *5th*, wheat and oats; *6th*, oats. When barley is wanted, it is sown in a part of the fifth or sixth lots, in place of oats; seldom in the second. The average quantity of grain obtained from an acre is probably not equal to what it is in some other parts of Morayshire; but the quality of it will bear a comparison with that of any grain in the kingdom. The average produce of a Scotch acre may be estimated at from three to four quarters.

The improvement of waste lands in this part of the country would be attended with no advantage to the farmer. Most of these lands are overrun with furze and broom, which it would cost a very considerable expense to root out, and carry off; and the soil when turned up by the plough, would produce nothing if not richly dunged, which, obviously it could not be, without obliging the farmer to his great loss, to stint his fields already in cultivation of their usual allowance of manure. The improvement most likely to be profitable, it is apprehended would be, to lay plenty of lime on the land already under the plough, and to use bones as a manure for raising turnips. These substances have been tried in this quarter, and have answered remarkably well; but the cost (from 3s. 6d. to 4s. for a boll (128 Scotch pints) of unslaked lime, and 3s. per bushel of ground bones,) rather exceeds the ability of the smaller farmers to procure them in any considerable quantity.

Rabbits, owing to the prodigious increase of their number within the last three or four years, have become destructive in no inconsiderable degree to the wheat and rye brairds, and turnips. The measures taken for abating this nuisance by the gentlemen who manage this property as trustees, have not yet had all the effect that could be wished: and perhaps it might be well that the farmer himself were permitted to use such means as he might find necessary for protecting his crops from this sort of depredation.

Produce.—The average amount and value of raw produce yearly raised in the parish, as nearly as can be ascertained, is as follows:

| | | | | |
|---------------------|-------|-----------|---|---|
| Grain of all kinds, | - | L. 7456 | 0 | 0 |
| Potatoes, turnips, | - - | 1854 | 0 | 0 |
| Hay, | - . - | 150 | 0 | 0 |
| Pasture, | - - - | 1500 | 0 | 0 |
| | | <hr/> | | |
| | | L. 10,960 | 0 | 0 |

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Market-Town.—The nearest market town is Elgin, which is five miles distant from the church of Urquhart.

Means of Communication.—The length of turnpike road passing through the parish is 2½ miles. County roads have been made where they are wanted, and are kept in tolerably good repair. There is no Justice of Peace resident in the parish, not even a Constable. To give a small matter to vagrants is found to be attended with less trouble and expense than to deal with them as they must often be dealt with in towns.

Ecclesiastical State.—The only place of worship in the parish is the parish church, of which the situation is sufficiently convenient, its distance from the farthest extremity of the parish being scarcely three miles. The church is an old house, but in good repair, and affords sufficient accommodation for the population. The sittings may be said to be free, excepting those in a small gallery, for which the kirk-session draw about L. 4 of rent annually for behoof of the poor. A certain space has been allotted by the proprietors of the parish to each farm according to the size, for which the tenant at his entry pays at the rate of 9s. for a pew, which, however, is repaid to him at his removal; so that for six sittings, the number of sittings in a pew, the rent paid yearly is no more than the interest of 9s.

The manse, an excellent house, was built in the year 1822. The extent of the glebe is five acres, the value about L. 1, 5s. per

acre; the amount of stipend, as modified in 1829, is fifteen chalders, the one-half meal and the other half barley, and L. 10 of money. The only Dissenters in the parish are three families of Antiburgher Seceders, and three of Episcopalians, consisting of about 25 individuals. The sacrament of the Lord's Supper is dispensed once a-year; and the average number of communicants is 200.

Education.—The parochial school is the only one in the parish at present. The branches taught in it are, English, English grammar, Latin, Greek, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping, the elements of algebra, and practical geometry. The schoolmaster's salary is the maximum. He has a comfortable dwelling-house, and is paid the statutory allowance for a garden. The Earl of Dunfermline's mortification to the school of Urquhart of twelve bolls meal annually (eight and a-half stone Dutch weight to the boll,) is now paid to the schoolmaster according to the fair price of the county. The amount of school fees does not exceed L. 8 a-year.

Last year there was another school in the parish, but the master left it for a better situation. Another teacher is wanted, and in all probability will soon be found, to supply his place. The emoluments of the last teacher consisted of school fees, and an allowance of three guineas annually by the trustees of the late James Earl of Fife.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The average number of persons receiving parochial aid is thirty, and the average sum allotted to each annually is L. 1. In the course of a year, casual relief is afforded to persons not on the roll, to the amount of from L. 2 to L. 3. The annual amount of contributions and other funds for relief of the poor is as follows:

| | | | | |
|--|---|-------|----|---|
| Average of weekly collections in the church, | - | L. 24 | 0 | 0 |
| Mortification payable by the town-council of Elgin from land called the | | | | |
| Shooting acres, | - | 2 | 13 | 6 |
| Rent of gallery in the church, | - | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| L. 64 in bank, reserved to meet a time of unusual distress, at 2 per cent. | | 1 | 5 | 7 |
| Donations, average cannot be calculated, but say, | - | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| <hr/> | | | | |
| | | L. 33 | 19 | 1 |

Applications for parochial relief are not frequent, and the circumstances of those who do apply for it are so well known to the members of the kirk-session, that there is little danger of its being given to such as do not really stand in need of it.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The improvements in husbandry, which, at the time of the last

Statistical Account, were in their infancy, and hesitatingly attempted by some of the more wealthy tenants, are now generally adopted. Turnips and sown grass, which were then far from common, may now be seen on every, even the smallest farm; and with regard to the dress and diet of the people, a considerable change to the better has evidently taken place in both.

April 1835.

PARISH OF SPEYMOUTH.

PRESBYTERY OF ELGIN, SYNOD OF MORAY.

THE REV. JOHN GORDON, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY, &c.

Extent and Boundaries.—THE extent of the parish from north to south is about 7 miles; and from east to west about 2 miles, on an average. It is bounded on the north by the Moray Frith; on the east by the Spey. The parish is formed of the two old parishes of Essil and Dipple, which were united in 1731.

Topographical Appearances.—At the distance of about half a mile from the sea, the ground rises suddenly to a small hill. Beyond this there is almost one continued plain, of $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles in length, and about $1\frac{1}{4}$ in breadth, bounded on the side towards the river by a steep bank, from forty to fifty feet in height. The soil is for the most part light.* The climate is mild and temperate, and the situation healthy.

About the year 1800, the extensive moor adjoining Garmouth, called the Common, was divided among the feuars, the Duke of Gordon retaining a portion. Nearly the whole was planted with Scotch firs, which are thriving well, and have much improved the appearance of the country.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Antiquities.—The only relic of the past in this parish worth preserving, was part of the house in which Charles II. is said to have signed the Solemn League and Covenant; but this was razed to the foundation last year. In digging in several parts of the beach at

* *Vide* Old Statistical Account.

Kingston, many human skeletons were found, confirming the statements of our provincial historians, that several skirmishes had been fought at different times in that quarter.

Historical Notices.—The village of Kingston has, with the exception of three or four houses, been built within the last twenty-five years. The first dwellings erected there were mere temporary wooden sheds, built by Dodsworth and Osbourne, for the accommodation of their workmen, and by them named Kingston Port, after Kingston-upon-Hull; and not, as Sir Thomas Dick Lauder states in his excellent history of the Morayshire Floods, in honour of Charles II. who landed here on his return from Holland. These gentlemen purchased the forest of Glenmore from the Duke of Gordon in 1784; and for many years carried on a most extensive trade here in timber and ship-building. I am informed that, subsequent to 1793, they built twenty-four vessels, two of which were upwards of 750 tons register burthen; two of nearly 600 tons; the rest from 50 to 500 tons. Several other shipbuilders have during that time built 126 vessels, measuring from 29 to 200 tons; of these Mr W. Geddie built 43, and he still carries on the business successfully. All these vessels were built of Highland natural grown fir timber, and have been found to last as long as many vessels built of oak; and are insured at Lloyds and by the other Sea Insurance Companies on equal terms with vessels built of oak. The four large vessels above-mentioned were long employed by Government in the transport service; and two of them were afterwards engaged by the East India Company in the India and China trade.

Since the flood in 1829, the harbour of Garmouth has been far from good, nor can it be improved until the action of the sea shall force in, and raise the gravel bank on the east side of the river, so as to form a barrier against and yield a shelter from the sea during stormy weather. To attempt the erection of a pier is out of the question, as the channel shifts almost every *speat*, and the nature of the ground precludes the possibility of obtaining a secure foundation. A large quantity of gravel is brought down the river during every flood, and forms into ridges at the water mouth, often rendering access into the harbour impracticable except for vessels of small burthen. At present the ordinary depth of water on the bar at the lowest neap tides is only 6 feet, and at the highest stream tides 12 feet. Since 1815, the depth of water in the bay,

for about two miles out, has diminished one fathom. This will give an idea of the quantity of gravel carried down by the stream. From beyond the bridge of Spey, the gravel over which the river flows is continually in motion, and rapidly descending to the ocean; in proof of which I may mention, that several large stones, which formed part of the bridge of Spey, were cast ashore at the water mouth, four days after the bridge fell on the 4th August 1829; and the mooring anchor, weighing at least a ton, and securely fastened, as was supposed, in the channel of the river, a quarter of a mile from its mouth, was during the great flood carried out to sea, and never recovered.

III.—POPULATION.

By the last census the population amounted to 1475, of which number 675 are inhabitants of Garmouth, 200 of Kingston, and the remainder in the landward part of the parish.

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|-----|
| Average number of births registered for the last three years, (though not Dissenters, many refuse to register,) | - | - | - | 19 |
| Average of marriages during the same period, | - | - | - | 13 |
| Number of males, | - | - | - | 695 |
| females, | - | - | - | 780 |
| Number of families in the parish, | - | - | - | 347 |
| chiefly employed in agriculture, | - | - | - | 94 |
| in trade, manufactures, and handicraft, | - | - | - | 127 |

Character and Habits of the People.—The people of this parish are in general honest, peaceable, and industrious, very charitable to the poor, and in cases of distress disposed to acts of humanity. They are active and hardy. The greatest part apply themselves to husbandry, to the salmon-fishing, or to a seafaring life. They seem to enjoy the comforts of society in the same degree as those of their station throughout the kingdom in general. Scarcely any change has taken place among the small farmers, farm-servants, day-labourers, &c. since 1792, as to their mode of living,—with the exception of a greater consumption of tea, which probably arises from their being deprived of home brewed beer, a beverage of which they are very fond, and the want of which is the cause of much vexation, particularly during harvest and when milk is scarce. The latter is often the case, as cows are kept chiefly for breeding. In dress there has been a great change. Scarcely any of the men use cloth made at home, except when engaged in their daily labours. On Sundays and other particular occasions, they appear in dresses of cloth from England or the south of Scotland. Amongst the men hats and watches are universal; not a solitary bonnet re-

mains, but when at the plough or in the barn, a Kilmarnock *coul* may sometimes be seen. The working classes have been for some years subjected to severe trials from the want of employment, but they bore them patiently, and maintained their honesty and integrity.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.—Extent of Farms, Rent of Land, &c.—The farms in this parish are of very different extent, 1 exceeding 200 acres, employing four ploughs; 4 from 100 to 150, employing three ploughs each; 7 from 60 to 100, employing two ploughs each; about 16 from 12 to 30 acres, with one plough each; besides, there are a few cottagers occupying from 1 to 4 acres, some keeping one horse and a cow, some a cow only. There are about 60 acres occupied by the feuars of Fochabers, in the parish of Bellie, who have free access, across the Spey by the bridge at Fochabers, to their acres, which they hold from year to year. The rents over the parish vary from 20s. to 40s.; the average may be about 28s. per acre. There are a considerable number of small heritors or feuars in Garmouth, who have feus of different extent on the lands of Garmouth, all holding of the Duke of Gordon as superior. The rents here cannot be so well ascertained, as the greater part of the lands are occupied by the feuars themselves.

Husbandry.—The five-shift rotation is in a few cases carried on, but the general course is the six-shift, viz. one-sixth in green crop, turnips and potatoes, all in drills, generally about three-fourths of the former, well dunged with farm-yard dung, sometimes bone manure, which is found to answer turnips very well, but it is not yet fully ascertained if this kind of manure will be sufficient for the succeeding crops of the shift. However, it is by far too expensive, considering the low rate of agricultural produce at present,—the quantity found to operate effectually being from 25 to 30 bushels per Scotch acre, at 2s. 9d. per bushel. This shift is next year laid down with wheat or barley, and grass seeds, eight lb. red clover, one or two white, one or two rib-grass, and one and a half bushels perennial rye-grass per acre. It then remains two years in grass, partly cut for hay, partly pastured the first year, pastured the second; it is then in most instances dunged for wheat, and sown in the month of October or November. When the whole cannot be dunged, the remainder is sown with oats in spring. The sixth and last crop of the course is spring corn; the field ribbed in autumn to rot the stubble, then

ploughed in spring, and sown with oats or barley, as the farmer thinks the soil adapted. By this method the farm will be divided thus : one-sixth in green crop ; one-third in grass ; one-half in corn. Lime has been in use here for thirty years, and is still now and then repeated when the land is in process of cleaning with green crop.

Stock.—There are about 120 or 130 work horses. They are not heavy, but generally active. Two make an excellent plough. Breeding them to any extent for sale is not practised, as the lands are generally open fields ; but most farmers endeavour to rear as many as supply themselves.

There are about 650 black-cattle. The breed is a cross between the Highland and Aberdeenshire. They are very handsome stock when in good condition. A very small proportion of what is for yearly sale is fed off for the butcher. These when three or four years old weigh from twenty-eight to thirty-six stone. The greater part is sold when two or three years old to the graziers in Aberdeenshire, and other counties to the south. The dairy is not much practised. The largest farms keep from eight to twelve cows. They bring up their calves, and serve the family. The farmer is more careful to have neat figures for breeding than to have them good for milking. There are few sheep. Three or four flocks of about one hundred each are kept. Most of the farmers close upon the Spey keep from four to eight pasturing among their cattle. The breed is a cross between the Cheviot and the small brown-faced Morayshire.

Navigation.—Notwithstanding the disadvantages connected with the harbour of Garmouth, it is gratifying to know that, compared with what it was in 1792, the trade and shipping of the port has greatly increased. I have no means of ascertaining the number of vessels which entered here during any year from 1792 till 1816. From 1st January 1816 till 31st December 1825, a period of ten years, 1863 vessels besides boats sailed, three-fourths of which at least were loaded with timber and grain. This gives an average of 186 yearly. The following is the number of vessels which arrived and sailed for the seven years from the 5th January 1826 to 5th January 1833, as per Custom-house books.

| | | 1826. | 1827. | 1828. | 1829. | 1830. | 1831. | 1832-3. |
|-------------------|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------|
| General arrivals, | - | 191 | 155 | 123 | 111 | 98 | 130 | 138 |
| General sailings, | - | 201 | 164 | 127 | 113 | 96 | 125 | 140 |

The arrivals and sailings of vessels with cargoes, from 5th January 1826 to 5th January 1833, were

| | | | 1826. | 1827. | 1828. | 1829. | 1830. | 1831. | 1832-3 |
|-------------------------------------|----|----|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| Inwards—imports, coals, | - | - | 64 | 61 | 67 | 46 | 43 | 41 | 57 |
| Outwards—exports, timber and grain, | 97 | 82 | 76 | 85 | 61 | 56 | 86 | | |

During the ten years from 1st January 1816 to 31st December 1825, the greatest number of vessels entering the harbour was 257 in 1818, and the least 154 in 1822.

From the pilotage book kept here, the number of vessels which sailed during 1834 appears to have been 204, fifty of which were loaded with grain, chiefly oats and wheat, and carried at least 18,000 quarters to various English ports, and chief towns in the south of Scotland. A large proportion of the remainder were loaded with timber. The rest sailed in ballast. During last year, forty cargoes of Scotch coals, equal to 3000 tons, were delivered here for various lime-burners and distillers. Twenty cargoes of English coals were imported from Sunderland during the same period, containing 18,000 imperial barrels, and sold at from 1s. 9d. to 2s. per barrel. Since the division of the moor of Garmouth nearly forty years ago, till then common to all the feuars, and supplying many of the inhabitants with turf for fuel, coals and wood are universally used for fire. Indeed, in many houses a peat or turf fire was never seen. There are twelve vessels belonging to the port, of from 29 to 84 tons registered burthen, whose total tonnage is 685 tons; and they are manned by 55 seamen. All the masters, with two exceptions, and nearly all the men, are natives of Garmouth and Kingston; and besides these, several masters, seamen and ship-carpenters, originally belonging to this place, go to sea from other ports. With two exceptions, all the masters of the above twelve vessels are part or sole owners of the vessels they command.

Although they never enter the harbour, the Spey Fishing Company's salmon smacks should be included in the Garmouth shipping. From 8 to 12 of these are annually employed in conveying salmon to the London market. From the best information I can obtain, 73 cargoes of salmon were last year shipped in whole or in part in the bay; 52 of these were sent direct to London, the rest were sent to Aberdeen, and there re-shipped for London. Each cargo contains on an average 280 boxes, containing 1 cwt. of fish each, and may be estimated as worth L. 5 each box, taking the average prices of the whole season.

Salmon Fishing.—The Salmon Fishing Company employ twelve crews of seven men each, and seven curers in the fishing department. Last year the fishers were engaged at L. 9 certain, and were to get

more, provided the fishing turned out well. They got L.13, 3s. each. Their wages this year are to depend on the quantity of fish caught. Two kit boats are employed to carry out the fish to the smacks in the bay, and bring in the empty boxes, &c. These boats have a crew of seven men each, whose wages are not less than L. 8, for the period from 1st February to the end of October; but if the fishing is good, they have the option of being paid 2½d. for each full box of fish shipped from the tug-net, or shifted or exchanged from one smack to another in the bay, and 1½d. for each empty box taken from the smack to the quarters. Salmon sells here from 1st February, when the fishing commences, to 31st May, at 1s. 6d. per pound, and grilises at 1s.; and from 1st June to 14th September, when the fishing ends, salmon sells at 1s., grilises above 5 lb. at 9d., and 6d. for those below that weight. These prices are charged here even when salmon is selling in the London market under 6d. per pound. The rent of this fishing is L. 8200.

Timber Trade.—The timber trade of Garmouth is now far from being what it once was. The forest of Glenmore was exhausted upwards of twenty years ago, and all the natural timber brought here since was from the forest of Abernethy, belonging to the Earl of Seafield, the forest of Rothiemurchus, belonging to Sir John Peter Grant of Rothiemurchus, and Glenfishie forest, belonging to Mackintosh of Mackintosh. There are three agents for the sale of this timber, and three individuals who deal in planted fir timber—an article of comparatively recent introduction into the market in this place. During part of the late war, when foreign timber was excluded from the British market, the quantity of natural fir timber sold here exceeded L. 40,000 Sterling yearly; and even so recently as 1818 it amounted to about L. 30,000. Since that period foreign timber has been more generally used for extensive jobs, particularly in England and the south of Scotland; and planted timber, though far inferior in durability and quality to the natural grown fir, is often preferred for inferior purposes, because of the difference in the price. At one period the price of the best fir timber was as high as 3s. 6d. per cubic foot; the same quality is now sold here at 1s. 3d. and 1s. 4d.; logs and spars from 8 to 40 feet long, and from 7 to 18 inches diameter, are sold from 1s. to 1s. 4d. per solid foot, and small logs and spars from 9d. to 1s. per cubic foot. Sawn timber, viz. scantling plank and deals vary from 1s. 6d. to 2s. per cubic foot; the two last are generally sold by the 100 feet, superficial mea-

sure. The sales for several years past range from L. 8000 to L. 10,000, to which may be added from L. 800 to L. 1000 worth of planted timber. The average number of floats received for the last few years does not exceed 300 of Highland timber; the average value of each float is about L. 30, and the average floating money about L. 2, 15s. The floats received by the agent for Rothiemurchus' trustees are generally smaller than those received by the agents for the Earl of Seafield and the Glenfishie Wood Company, and consequently do not exceed L. 2, 10s. for floating money; but the above average of the whole is very near the mark. Connected with the wood trade, from 60 to 80 persons are employed during the greater part of the year as labourers and sawyers. Wages of labourers 1s. 6d. per day, when loading vessels 2s. per day; sawing is paid by the 100 feet from 1s. 9d. to 2s. 6d. according to the size of the timber sawn. No allowance of spirits is given, except on extraordinary occasions. Last year about 120 floats of planted timber were received here, average value L. 7; average floating money L. 1, 10s.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

The great post road enters this parish at the bridge of Spey, and passes through the middle of it to Elgin. The bridge was finished in autumn 1804, and fell in part during the flood of August 1829. A handsome and substantial wooden arch was thrown over the fallen part, and the bridge re-opened on the 5th December 1832. The mail passes daily, and there is a daily runner to Garmouth.

Ecclesiastical State.—The church is inconveniently situated for the bulk of the population, standing about the middle of the parish, and consequently fully three miles distant from either extremity. The villages of Garmouth and Kingston, containing a large proportion of the population, are at the one extremity, and some small farms, together with many cottages, at the other. Few parishioners are within a mile of the church; but notwithstanding there are few country parishes in Scotland where the inhabitants are more disposed to attend church, or more attached to our national Establishment. There are not more than seven Dissenters. The church was built in 1732, enlarged and repaired in 1799, and is now in good condition. The stipend, by decret of annexation 1731, is 77 bolls, 1 firloft, 2 pecks bear; 32 bolls, 1½ peck oatmeal, at 8½ stones the boll; and L. 340 Scotch. The glebe is twenty-five acres in extent; but the soil is not good, and the crops on it, as well as on the neighbouring fields, are fearfully destroyed

by rabbits. The yearly value of the glebe per acre may be L. 1, 3s.

Education.—Besides the parochial school, which is situated in Garmouth, there is a school in the higher part of the parish, the master of which receives a salary from the Society for Propagating Christain Knowledge, as also an allowance from the Duke of Gordon, who is sole heritor. The salary of the parochial school-master is L. 29, 18s. 9d., and his school fees may amount to L. 19 per annum. There are also three private schools, and, so far as I know, all the youths are more or less instructed.

The Garmouth Sabbath school was opened in 1822, and in December 1831 another was opened in Kingston. By the quarterly returns rendered in February last, the former contained 108 and the latter 50 scholars. A Sabbath school library was established in 1827, from which the scholars receive books once a fortnight as a reward for good conduct and merit as scholars. The Garmouth subscription library was instituted in 1823, and contains nearly 200 volumes, chiefly approved standard works. The mechanics' library was established in 1825, and contains also about 200 volumes. These three institutions have been the means of supplying much useful and entertaining information, and have certainly created as well as supplied the taste for reading, which of late years has characterized many of the community. It is hoped they will continue to do much good.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The number of poor at present receiving parochial aid is 43. The means of aiding them arise from the collections on Sunday, which for the last two years amounted to L. 33 per annum; seat rents in the church L. 3, 12s.; half of the interest of L. 140 mortified money, (the other half being assigned to a teacher in the higher part of the parish,) and the interest of L. 45 lately bequeathed.

Mills.—There are three corn-mills, to any one of which the tenants may carry their corns. The multure paid is for service only; and for the miller about one-sixtieth part, but the general practice is to pay the miller for drying and grinding, 1s. for nine stone of meal. The feuars of Garmouth are astricted to the mill of Garmouth, belonging to the Duke of Gordon, paying one-thirteenth for multure to the proprietor, and some small proportion to the miller for work. They are likewise bound to assist in keeping the mill lead in repair.

June 1835.

PARISH OF KNOCKANDO.

PRESBYTERY OF ABERLOUR, SYNOD OF MORAY.

THE REV. GEORGE GORDON, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name, Boundaries, &c.—THE parish of Knockando, or as it formerly was spelled, Knockandow, derives its name from two Gaelic words, which denote Black Hill, or Hill with the Black Head. The parish of Ma Calen, or Macallan, is now annexed to Knockando, but no distinct record of union is preserved. According to Shaw, Knockando was a vicarage depending on the parson of Inveravon, and Ma Calen or Elchies, a vicarage depending on the parson of Botarie.

Extent, Boundaries.—Knockando is of a long irregular figure, stretching along the banks of the river Spey, and extending about 15 or 16 miles in length, whilst varying from 2 to 6 in breadth. It is bounded on the west by the parishes of Cromdale and Edinkillie; on the north by Dallas and Birnie; on the east by Rothies; and on the south by the river Spey, which separates Knockando from Inveravon and Aberlour, in the shire of Banff.

Topographical Appearances.—The external appearance of Knockando parish is considerably diversified by rising grounds and intervening glens, with occasional level haughs stretching along the river side. On the northern boundary the ground is hilly, forming part of a tract known by the names of the Hunt Hill and the Mannoch Hill. In the western direction of the parish is an eminence called James Roy's Cairn, which is generally supposed to be the highest ground in Morayshire. In fine weather there is a very extensive prospect from its summit. Along the banks of the Spey the scenery is in general picturesque, especially at the mansion house of Knockando, and the bridge of Craig Elachie. The hills are covered with various kinds of heather, and the banks of the river are in many places skirted with wood.

Caves.—There are two caves in the parish,—the cave of James An Tuim, *i. e.* James of the Hill, at Dellagyle. This James An

Tuim is supposed to be James Grant, nephew of Carron, frequently mentioned in a well known publication entitled "The History of the Troubles and Memorable Transactions in Scotland, by John Spalding, Commissary-Clerk of Aberdeen." The other cave is called Bane's Hole, and takes its title from Donald Bane, (White Donald,) a robber of that name, who is supposed to have been shot and buried in the immediate neighbourhood.

Meteorology.—The climate may in general be characterized as dry and healthy. The temperature is considerably colder than in the lower and more fertile districts of Moray, resembling rather the climate of Aberdeen and Banff shires. The west and south-west winds are the most powerful and prevalent, frequently continuing for days and nights in succession, especially during the winter and spring months of the year. The snow generally remains longer than in the low country, and this may be easily accounted for from the hilly nature of the parish. The warmest part of the parish is the district between the Spey and the House of Knockando. At Mill-haugh of Ballintomb and Dalmounach Cottage, there is frequently calm and warm weather, when at half a mile's distance the storm is raging.

The following observations were taken at the House of Wester Elchies.

| 1834, | <i>Therm.</i> | <i>Barom.</i> | 1835, | <i>Therm.</i> | <i>Barom.</i> |
|----------|---------------|---------------|----------|---------------|---------------|
| Dec. 20, | 40 | 29 7-10ths | Jan. 17, | 35 | 28 5-10ths |
| 21, | 40 | do. | 18, | 35 | do. |
| 22, | 36 | do. | 19, | 27 | 28 4-10ths |
| 23, | 39 | do. | 20, | 22 | 29 1-10th |
| 24, | 48 | 29 5-10ths | 21, | 33 | 29 3-10ths |
| 25, | 48 | do. | 22, | 43 | 29 do. |
| 26, | 38 | 29 9-10ths | 23, | 43 | 29 |
| 27, | 30 | 29 7-10ths | 24, | 50 | 29 3-10ths |
| 28, | 30 | 28 5-10ths | 25, | 50 | do. |
| 29, | 29 | do. | 26, | 42 | do. |
| 30, | 29 | do. | 27, | 42 | do. |
| 31, | 29 | do. | 28, | 43 | do. |
| 1835, | | | 29, | 40 | 29 1-10th |
| Jan. 1, | 35 | do. | 30, | 45 | 29 2-10ths |
| 2, | 35 | do. | 31, | 44 | 29 1-10th |
| 3, | 43 | 30 | Feb. 1, | 55 | 28 5-10ths |
| 4, | 30 | 29 8-10ths | 2, | 45 | 29 1-10th |
| 5, | 42 | 29 9-10ths | 3, | 45 | do. |
| 6, | 37 | 29 8-10ths | 4, | 45 | do. |
| 7, | 37 | 29 7-10ths | 5, | 42 | 28 5-10ths |
| 8, | 40 | 29 8-10ths | 6, | 35 | 29 3-10ths |
| 9, | 40 | do. | 7, | 35 | do. |
| 10, | 37 | 28 5-10ths | 8, | 45 | 28 5-10ths |
| 11, | 30 | 28 9-10ths | 9, | 30 | do. |
| 12, | 21 | 28 1-10th | 10, | 38 | 29 6-10ths |
| 13, | 35 | 28 8-10ths | 11, | 38 | do. |
| 14, | 41 | do. | 12, | 38 | do. |
| 15, | 41 | 28 2-10ths | 13, | 40 | 29 5-10ths |
| 16, | 37 | 28 5-10ths | 14, | 42 | 29 |

| 1835, | Therm. | Barom. | 1835, | Therm. | Barom. |
|----------|--------|------------|-----------|--------|------------|
| Feb. 15, | 42 | 29 | March 18, | 47 | 29 5-10ths |
| 16, | 41 | 28 9-10ths | 19, | 49 | 29 2-10ths |
| 17, | 41 | 28 1-10th | 20, | 45 | 29 4-10ths |
| 18, | 38 | 28 4-10ths | 21, | 46 | 29 5-10ths |
| 19, | 42 | 28 3-10ths | 22, | 46 | do. |
| 20, | 32 | 28 | 23, | 46 | 30 |
| 21, | 35 | 28 3-10ths | 24, | 50 | 29 9-10ths |
| 22, | 41 | 28 6-10ths | 25, | 47 | do. |
| 23, | 31 | 28 | 26, | 52 | 29 7-10ths |
| 24, | 31 | 28 | 27, | 48 | do. |
| 25, | 41 | 28 1-10th | 28, | 40 | 29 5-10ths |
| 26, | 45 | do. | 29, | 39 | 29 4-10ths |
| 27, | 42 | 28 3-10ths | 30, | 44 | 29 |
| 28, | 39 | 29 5-10ths | 31, | 30 | do. |
| March 1, | 29 | 29 1-10th | April 1, | 40 | do. |
| 2, | 29 | 28 5-10ths | 2, | 40 | 29 1-10th |
| 3, | 32 | do. | 3, | 32 | 29 6-10ths |
| 4, | 36 | 29 | 4, | 32 | do. |
| 5, | 36 | 29 5-10ths | 5, | 45 | 29 5-10ths |
| 6, | 35 | 28 8-10ths | 6, | 53 | do. |
| 7, | 33 | 29 | 7, | 50 | 29 4-10ths |
| 8, | 30 | 29 | 8, | 40 | 29 |
| 9, | 40 | 28 8-10ths | 9, | 50 | 28 9-10ths |
| 10, | 40 | 28 5-10ths | 10, | 42 | 29 5-10ths |
| 11, | 43 | 28 4-10ths | 11, | 50 | 29 7-10ths |
| 12, | 43 | 29 5-10ths | 12, | 50 | do. |
| 13, | 40 | 29 4-10ths | 13, | 50 | 29 8-10ths |
| 14, | 40 | 28 9-10ths | 14, | 40 | 29 2-10ths |
| 15, | 45 | 29 2-10ths | 15, | 33 | 29 3-10ths |
| 16, | 45 | do. | 16, | 36 | 29 5-10ths |
| 17, | 41 | 29 1-10th | | | |

Hydrography.—There are a great many mineral springs in this parish, which might with very little trouble be converted into excellent wells. On the farm of Bogroy, there is a chalybeate spring, which contains a small quantity of carbonic acid, and a great quantity of iron. Another mineral well on the farm of Felochans, near the village of Archiestown, partakes much of the same ingredients. In the wood of Wester Elchies is the well of Topran, or the Sabbath Well, which contains a trace of sulphuric acid united with soda, a small quantity of carbonic acid gas and salt, according to an analysis made by Mr Shier, lecturer on chemistry, and late assistant to Dr David Boswell Reid of Edinburgh. The Topran Well affords a general specimen of the common drinking water of the parish.

There are two small lochs in the moorlands, viz. Benshalgs, and Loch Coulalt, or the loch of the small burn. The latter is about a mile in circumference, the former not so much.

A number of burns water the parish, the principal of which are the burn of Aldyoulie or Ault Gheallaidh, (this name in Gaelic signifies Burn of the Covenant, and it is generally believed that a paction between two contending clans had been entered into upon

its banks,) the burn of Aldarder, the burn of Knockando, and the burn of Ballintomb. Trouts are found in these streams.

All these rivulets rise amongst the hills, and descend during rain with surprising velocity, overflowing their banks, and doing considerable mischief. During the great Moray floods of August 1829, all these mountain streams rushed down with tremendous force from their native hills, swollen to the size of rivers, carrying bridges, mills, trees, &c. before them to the Spey.*

There are several pretty little waterfalls over some of the burns, especially those of Knockando, Aldyoulie, Aldarder, and Ballintomb. One romantic fall is caused by the junction of two burns beside the glebe, the view of which, as seen from the rustic bridge of Poolflasgan in the immediate vicinity, is very picturesque.

The Spey is the only river in the parish, and is the most rapid as well as one of the largest in Scotland. It flows through the whole length of the parish, from the Cromdale boundary on the west, to the Rothes boundary on the east, a little beneath Craig Elachie Bridge. The velocity of the Spey may be stated at four to four and a-half miles per hour. A number of rafts of timber pass down the river during the floating season, from the forests of Rothiemurchus and Abernethy. In this parish is the rock of Tom-dow, the most dangerous place for floats in the course of the river. During the flood of 1829, this rapid and powerful river occasioned great damage in this as well as in many other parishes along its banks. On the lands of Kirdals, belonging to Mr Grant of Bal-

* The following interesting description of the Knockando Burn is given by Sir Thomas Dick Lauder of Fountainhall and Relugas, Bart., in his "Account of the Great Floods of August 1829, in the Province of Moray and adjoining Districts."

"The Knockando Burn, entering from the left, is extremely small, but it was swollen by the flood to a size equal to that of the Spey in its ordinary state. The high promontory, on the neck of which the manse of Knockando stands, shoots forwards towards the steep opposite banks of the burn, interrupting the continuity of its haughs by a narrow pass, leaving room only at the base of the precipice for two cottages, a small garden, and a road. Where the glen opens, a little way above, there stood a carding-mill, a meal-mill, and the houses of their occupants. Of the two cottages at the bottom of the promontory, one was inhabited by the old bellman, his wife, and daughter, and a blind beggar woman, who had that night sought quarters with them; the other was tenanted by a poor lame woman, who kept a school for girls and young children. After the flood the prospect here was melancholy; the burn that formerly wound through the beautiful haugh above the promontory, had cut a channel as broad as that of the Spey, from one end of it to the other. The whole wood was gone, the carding mill had disappeared, the miller's house was in ruins, and the banks below were strewed with pales, gates, bridges, rafts, engines, wool yarn, and half-woven webs, all utterly destroyed. A new road was recently made in this parish, and all the burns were substantially bridged, but, with the exception of one arch, all yielded to the pressure of the flood. Mr Grant of Wester Elchies damage is estimated at L. 820. The parish of Knockando returned twelve cases of families rendered destitute by this calamity."

lindalloch, the house and offices of one subtenant were completely swept away, and the ground covered with sand to a considerable depth. The following will suffice for specimens of damage on the estate of Mr Grant of Wester Elchies :—On the Broom Isle, 3 acres covered with sand to the depth of 2 feet ; 7 acres, do. $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet ; 6 acres, do. 1 foot ; 1 acre, do. 3 feet ; 4 acres, do. 15 inches. —On the Haugh of Wester Elchies, 5 acres, 2 of which average 4 feet of sand, and 3 do. 1 foot ; $3\frac{1}{2}$ acres, do. $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet of sand and gravel ; 5 acres, do. $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet ; 1 acre, do. $2\frac{1}{2}$.—On the Haughs of Dellagyle and Dellowlie, 4 acres, averaging 2 feet. On the Boatman's Haugh, 1 acre, averaging 3 feet. The appearance of the country on this memorable occasion was awfully grand, and will long be remembered in Knockando.

Geology and Mineralogy.—The rocks are all primitive, and consist of granite, felspar, mica, sandstone, slate, gravel, and rock crystal. There is a considerable variety of soil. Near the river it is sandy ; higher up, black gravelly mould ; still higher up, a heavy clay soil, and near the hills, mossy. In some places the substratum is clay, in others gravel. The alluvial deposits consist of clay, bog iron ore, peat, fuller's earth, and marl. The mosses are of considerable extent ; the chief are, Milton, Monahoudie, and Mannoch. Oak and fir roots, and sometimes whole trees, have been found imbedded in the mosses, and in all probability have lain there concealed for ages. Hazel-nuts have also been found at the depth of twelve feet. From which circumstances, there is considerable reason for supposing that the country had at one period been covered with wood. Neither coal nor lime have been found in the parish. There is a small vein of slate, from which stones have occasionally been taken, and which is capable of being wrought.

Zoology.—The only rare animals are a few Thibet sheep at Wester Elchies, sent home from India by Mr Grant. They do not appear to thrive well in this part of the country, owing, as is thought, to the damp of the climate. The cross breed, however, have succeeded well, and afford excellent mutton, and lamb of the most delicate quality. The wool has degenerated ; but is still of a very soft texture, and superior to the common.

Amongst the animals commonly found in the parish may be mentioned the roe-deer, which frequents the woods of Wester Elchies during winter ; the fox, polecat (*Mustela putorius*,) weasel (*M. vulgaris*,) rabbit (*Lepus cuniculus*,) blue, white, and brown

hares, badger (*Ursus meles*,) wild cat, ermine, (*Mustela erminea*,) black rat (*Mus rattus*,) mole (*Talpa Europea*.)

Reptiles.—Adder (*Vipera communis*,) toad (*Bufo vulgaris*,) frog (*Rana temporaria*,) eel (*Triton aquaticus*.)

Ornithology.—A great variety of warblers are found in the parish of Knockando, the woods affording a pleasing shelter for building their nests.

“ Per virides passim ramos, sua tecta volucres
Concelebrant, mulcentque vagis loca sola querelis.”

BUCHANAN.

The following list contains the chief varieties, viz. *Warblers*.—Blackbird (*Turdus merula*,) thrush (*T. musicus*,) bullfinch (*Pyrrhula vulgaris*,) linnet (*Fringilla cannabina*,) robin red-breast (*Sylvia rubecula*,) chaffinch (*Fringilla cœlebs*,) and the sky-lark (*Alauda arvensis*.)

“ Bird of the wilderness,
Blithesome and cumberless,
Blessed be thy matin o’er moorland and lea.”

HOGG.

Game Birds.—Red grouse (*Tetrao Scoticus*,) black-cock (*T. tetrix*,) partridge (*Perdix*,) wood-cock (*Scolopax rusticola*,) snipe (*S. gallinago*,) curlew (*S. arquata*,) wild duck (*Anas boschas*,) lapwing (*Vanellus cristatus*,) pheasant (*Phasianus Colchicus*,) teal (*Anas crecca*,) water ouzel (*Sturnus cinclus*.) During the summer season, the snipes take their departure, but return in winter to breed. Game birds are rather decreasing than otherwise in this part of the country. Amongst other birds may be mentioned the eagle, as sometimes seen when passing to his eyrie, perched on the summit of the lofty Ben Avon, or the “high Cairngorum.” The swallow, “prænuntia veris,” (*Hirundo*,) the sparrow (*Fringilla domestica*,) the merlin (*Falco Esalon*,) the sparrow-hawk (*F. Nisus*,) the blue hawk (*F. cyaneus*,) the rook (*Corvus frugilegus*,) the raven (*C. Corax*,) the hooded-crow (*C. cornix*,) the magpie (*C. Pica*,) the owl (*Strix*,) the great wood-pecker (*Picus major*,) the wood-pigeon (*Columba Palumbus*,) the wild and tame pigeon (*C. livia*,) the water-wagtail (*Motacilla*,) the heron (*Ardea cinerea*,) the land-rail or corn-crake (*Gallinula crex*,) and the cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*.) Sea gulls sometimes come from the coast, and are generally the harbingers of stormy weather. They breed in the lochs.

Entomology.—The insect tribes in this parish are those common to the district.

Ichthyology.—The Spey is one of the most productive fishing rivers in Scotland, and a high rent is annually paid for the fishings at its mouth. Owing to stake-nets and cruives being employed farther down, the salmon fishing in this parish has much decreased of late years. There is still, however, occasionally excellent sport for the angler, and in the Spey are to be found white trout; finnock and flounder are also to be numbered amongst the inhabitants of the river. Excellent trouts are found in the larger burns of the parish. The fly, the bait, the bag-net, and the clip, are all employed by anglers, and sometimes the spear is put into operation during a blaze by torch-light.

Botany.—The parish of Knockando affords an excellent field for the study of botany. “The moorland harebells beautiful” are very plentiful; the forget-me-not, that “little modest flower, to friendship ever dear,” is not wanting; the anemone, “child of the wind,” adorns the woods and plantations; “the violet blue, that on the moss bank grows,” is by no means uncommon; the primrose presents itself in great abundance, and in rich profusion scattered around, the “wee, modest, crimson-tipped flower, daisy,” rears its gentle head. The honeysuckle, the wild rose, and the foxglove, court the shade of the woods, and the heather rejoices in the moors and uplands. Along the beautiful banks of the burns of Knockando and Ballintomb will be found plants and flowers almost

“beyond the power
Of botanist to number up their tribes.”

Amidst these sequestered dells may the student of botany gather each flower of the rock, when “ilka cowslip cup has kepp’d a tear,” and explore the varied phenomena by which he is surrounded. Amongst the rarer plants may be mentioned *Ranunculus auricomus* (wood ranunculus;) *Hippuris vulgaris* (mare’s-tail;) *Veronica Anagallis* (water speedwell;) *V. montana* (mountain do.;) *Poa decumbens* (decumbent meadow-grass;) *Briza media* (quaking grass.)

The heath consists of three kinds, viz. *Calluna vulgaris* (common heath;) *Erica Tetralix* (cross-leaved heath;) and *E. cinerea* (fine-leaved heath.)

The fruits are as follows:—*Vaccinium Myrtillus* (blae-berry or whortleberry;) *Fragaria* (strawberry;) *Rubus fruticosus* (bramble or black-berry;) *R. idæus* (raspberry;) *Berberis vulgaris* (bar-

berry;) *Rubus Chamæmorus* (cloudberry;) *Corylus Avellana* (hazel-nut;) *Vaccinium Oxycoccus* (cranberry;) *Empetrum nigrum* (crow-berry.)

Forest Trees.—

Quercus robur, oak.
Ulmus campestris, elm.
Syringa vulgaris, lilac.
Fraxinus excelsior, ash.
Sorbus aucuparia, mountain-ash.
Fagus sylvatica, beech.
Tilia Europæa, lime.
Betula alba, birch.
Populus tremula, aspen.
Populus alba, white poplar.
Æsculus hippocastanum, horse-chesnut.
Betula alnus, alder.
Sambucus nigra, elder.
Prunus avium, geen.
Pinus silvestris, Scotch fir.
Pinus larix, larch fir.

Pinus abies, spruce fir.
Pinus Picea, silver fir.
Prunus spinosa, sloe, or blackthorn.
Pyrus malus, crab apple.
Crataegus oxyacantha, hawthorn or white-thorn.
Laurus nobilis, laurel.
Prunus padus, bird-cherry.
Ilex Aquifolium, holly.
Cytisus laburnum, laburnum.
Salix aurita.
 triandra.
 fusca.
 viminalis.
 alba.

Woods, Plantations, &c.—There are several plantations in the parish of considerable extent; Easter Elchies, Corgyle, and Archiestown, are the chief. The wood of Dalballie was all cut down a few years ago. In the year 1830, Mr M'Pherson Grant planted about 430 acres of hill pasture on the estate of Kirdals with larches and Scotch firs, and in 1834 he commenced a similar plantation of nearly the same extent.

Trees.—In the garden of Knockando House are three old ash trees, measuring severally in circumference 11 feet 3 inches, 9 feet 5 inches, and 7 feet 5 inches. During the spring of 1834, a larch tree, 73 feet in length, which stood in the wood of Knockando, was blown down by the force of the wind in a tremendous hurricane. Two remarkable fruit trees are to be found in the garden of Wester Elchies, viz. an apple tree, which extends along a brick wall for the space of 78 feet in length by 11 in height, and a geen tree which measures 10 feet in circumference, the branches overhanging a circular space of considerable extent. In the vicinity of the same garden is a silver fir, which measures 6 feet 7 inches in circumference. Scotch firs and larches are the chief trees in the plantations, and appear to thrive better than any others. The natural wood consists principally of birch. At Wester Elchies are two large walnut trees, which in fine seasons generally yield plenty of fruit.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Historical Events.—The flood of August 1829 will be handed

down to future generations as the greatest historical event connected with the annals of Knockando.—A place called Campbell's Cairns is supposed by some to derive its name from being the scene of battle between the Campbells and some other clan, in which the Campbells were defeated; whilst others maintain that the place is so called from Cossack Dhu, a freebooter of the olden time, who was said to have concealed his booty among the cairns.

Parochial Registers.—In consequence of a fire breaking out in the village of Archiestown on the 17th April 1783, the house of the session-clerk was burned, and three volumes of session records were consumed, commencing in 1712, and ending in 1767. The testamentary book, and the register of baptisms and marriages, commencing in the year 1768, were fortunately preserved. Since 1783, books have been kept containing accounts of the ordinary collections, distributions to the poor, and general session business, as likewise registers of baptisms and marriages. The baptismal register is by no means complete, owing to parents having neglected to have their children's names inserted. Within the last few years, however, the register has been more accurate from the measures adopted to enforce registration. No record of deaths or funerals appears to have been kept until the year 1834, when the present minister commenced a private register.

Antiquities.—In the church-yard of Macallan, a small part of the church wall is still standing, but gradually mouldering away, and it is probable that ere long scarcely a vestige will remain. There are two or three places in the parish where chapels or religious houses are supposed to have stood. About eighteen years ago, there was found in the cave of James an Tuim, a dirk supposed to have belonged to that individual. The belt and buckle immediately crumbled to atoms on being touched. The handle appeared to have been composed of deer's horn; only a small part of it was entire. This dirk passed into the possession of Lewis Inkson, Esq., London, and is understood to have been deposited by him in one of the Museums of that city.

A small Danish battle axe of copper, found on the farm of Milton, and two small dirks picked up a few years ago, are in the possession of William Grant, Esq., younger of Wester Elchies. Two small coins of the reign of Charles II., were found last year in the western end of the parish, but unfortunately were sold by the finder, for the small sum of 1s. 6d. On the farm of Ballin-

tuim are three large stones, supposed to have formed part of the ruins of a Druid's temple. A human skeleton was dug up some years ago near the Mains of Kirdals, and reinterred in the same spot.

Occurrences of Note.—The chief occurrences of note are those connected with the great flood of 1829, previously referred to, and which event is now interwoven with the history of Morayland. It may here be mentioned, that a very singular place was formed at that memorable period by the burn of Aldarder, where there formerly was a waterfall 80 feet in height. At that time the burn changed its course, dashing with tremendous force over the top of a small hill, which it speedily undermined, and a chasm is now left of considerable extent. No measurement has been taken, but the ravine may probably vary from 200 to 300 ells in breadth, the banks on each side being from 60 to 100 feet in height. The waterfall was destroyed, and is now reduced to 6 or 8 feet, in the form of an inclined plane.

Land-owners.—There are three heritors, viz. James William Grant, Esq. of Wester Elchies; George M'Pherson Grant, Esq. of Ballindalloch and Invereshie; and the Right Honourable the Earl of Seafield. Mr Grant of Wester Elchies, the chief heritor, holds a civil appointment in Bengal; his family are resident in the parish, at the house of Wester Elchies. The Earl of Seafield possesses the lands of Easter Elchies. Mr Grant of Ballindalloch possesses Kirdals; and Mr Grant of Wester Elchies, Knockando, Ballintomb, and Wester Elchies. All the heritors have likewise property in other parishes.

Eminent Persons.—Lord Elchies, a distinguished Scottish judge, was born, and occasionally resided in the house of Easter Elchies. The Messrs Grant of Manchester, who by their own industry have established one of the most extensive mercantile establishments in the west of England, are natives of this parish. The late Sir William Grant, Master of the Rolls, was nearly related to the Elchies family.

Several young men have gone from this parish to the East and West Indies, and having realized property, have returned to their native land, and it is to be hoped will not again forsake their native hills. Others have settled in various places, and prospered in the world.

Modern Buildings.—The mansion-house of Wester Elchies, which is situated on an elevated position commanding an extensive

prospect, was originally an outpost of Castle Grant in Inverness-shire. From the various additions which this mansion has received, it is now a large building, partly in the old manorial, and partly in the castellated style, still retaining in some of the cellars, small windows and gun ports, used for defence in former ages. In the entrance-hall are preserved some chairs from the ancient castle of Rothes, marked with an Earl's coronet, and supposed to be some centuries old.*

The house of Knockando was built in the year 1732, and is a plain edifice, consisting of a main building and a wing on each side. It is now occupied by three families; part is considerably dilapidated, but the whole is capable of repair. Knockando House is beautifully situated near the bank of the Spey, and surrounded by wood. The walk in this direction is exceedingly picturesque and beautiful.

“ The bramble bends
Beneath its jetty load, the hazel hangs
With auburn branches dipping in the stream
That sweeps along.”

GRAHAME.

The landscape stretches far and wide, presenting varied aspects of Highland scenery, hill and dale, wood and water, rock and glen, blending harmoniously together in the vicinity, whilst the lofty summits of Ben Avon and Cairngorum are blue in the distance. —In the midst of wild yet simple scenery,

“ Far up the windings of the stream,
Where birken witch-knots o’er the channel meet,”

stands Glengunnery, or the cottage of the Clune. This dwelling, built of wood and thatched with heather, was erected in the year 1827 as a shooting lodge, by the late Charles Grant, Esq. of Wester Elchies. The cottage contains thirteen apartments of various sizes; it was for some time inhabited by Ian Stewart, who during his residence fitted up the building in a style tastefully characteristic of the days of “auld lang syne.” A young plantation is now rising around this romantic and sequestered spot, situated on the bank of the Knockando burn.

The mansion house of Easter Elchies, which consists of three stories, was erected in the year 1700, by the father of the late Lord Elchies, Captain John Grant, who distinguished himself at the battle of Cromdale, and died in 1715. He was succeeded by

* At Wester Elchies are also to be seen several sculptured stones, the remains of a Hindoo temple. They had lain for upwards of a hundred years in the neighbourhood of Gour, the ancient Hindoo capital, and have lately been sent to this country by Mr Grant.

his son Lord Elchies, one of the Judges of the Court of Session, whose son Baron Grant sold the estate to the Earl of Findlater. The house is at present occupied by Alexander Reid, Esq. who rents the home farm. In the wood of Easter Elchies, a little below the mansion house, is the churchyard of Macallan, a sequestered rural burial-ground.

At some distance below the House of Easter Elchies, and near the eastern extremity of the parish, stands the elegant bridge of Craig Elachie. This handsome structure was built in 1814 by the Parliamentary Commissioners, aided by private subscriptions. It consists of a single arch of cast metal thrown across the Spey at one of the most beautiful parts of the river. The span of the arch is 150 feet 3 inches above the ordinary level of the water; the abutments are supported by four castellated turrets, each raised to the height of fifty feet. "These towers, during the floods of 1829, established in a remarkable manner the superior durability of a hollow cylindrical construction in masonry, for they were but little affected by the pressure of water, which swept away many seemingly stronger buildings."*

The execution of the bridge did great credit to Mr John Simpson of Shrewsbury. The cast iron was delivered at Speymouth for L. 3000. The cost of erection, &c. including iron, amounted to L. 8000. The approach to Craig Elachie bridge is very grand. The traveller appears on crossing to be approaching a large cavern, but feels surprised to find himself on a turnpike road, cut for a considerable extent along a huge rock covered with firs of a large size, and bounded by a secure parapet wall overhanging the Spey. The height of Craig Elachie rock, at the highest point cut down for the roadway, is 70 feet.

In Rothiemurchus there is another lofty rock called Craig Elachie, and between these two crags is comprehended the well-known district of Strathspey. In former times, signals by fire used to be communicated from the one rock to the other, on the approach of an enemy, to convene the inhabitants. Hence the Grants use for their motto, "Stand fast, Craig Elachie."

III.—POPULATION.

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------|----------------------------|---|---|------|
| According to Dr Webster in | 1755, | the population amounted to | | | 1267 |
| | 1791, | - | - | - | 1500 |
| By last Statistical Account in | 1792, | - | - | - | 1500 |
| By Government Census in | 1801, | - | - | - | 1432 |

* Guide to the Highlands and Islands of Scotland by the Messrs Anderson of Inverness.

By Government Census in 1811, the population amounted to 1332
 1821, - - - 1414
 1831, - - - 1497, of which number 699 were males, and 798 females.

Average number of births for last seven years is 39
 of marriages for do. 11
 of deaths during 1834, - 21

There are 3 insane persons, 2 or 3 fatuous, and 3 blind.

There are 3 landed proprietors, and 16 tenants paying L. 50 and upwards yearly for their farms; 6 merchants who have shops for the sale of cloths, groceries, &c.

Most of the inhabitants are employed in agriculture as farmers, crofters, labourers, or farm-servants.

There are also 13 masons, 1 heatherer, 4 gardeners, 13 weavers, 7 tailors, 11 shoemakers, 8 blacksmiths, 10 wrights, 3 carpenters, 6 sawyers, 1 dyer, 2 carding-millers, 4 grain-millers, 1 forester, 1 carrier, 1 butcher, 1 groom, 1 fish cadger.

Language.—Not very long ago, the Gaelic tongue was spoken in this parish. There are now, however, not above a dozen individuals who understand it, and not the half of these natives. Knoc-kando is reckoned a Highland parish, but the preaching of Gaelic has been discontinued for nearly ninety years. Provincial Scotch, mixed with English, is now the common dialect of the country. In the neighbouring parish of Cromdale, Gaelic is still spoken and preached.

Customs, &c.—Amongst the customs, it may be remarked, that married women generally retain their maiden names in preference to assuming those of their husbands. Many of the people appear to have formerly had two names. The following specimens are selected from the parochial registers :

Grant *alias* Beg; Grant *alias* Achnach; Grant *alias* Roy; Grant *alias* M'Robbie; Grant *alias* Miller; Grant *alias* M'Kerran; Grant *alias* Cly; Grant *alias* Moir; Smith *alias* Gow; M'Pherson *alias* M'Lellan; Robertson *alias* M'Robie *alias* M'Robert; Cameron *alias* M'Phail; M'Donald *alias* M'Alister; M'Donald *alias* Muggach; M'William *alias* M'Cully.

The night-waking of corpses still continues, but nothing of an improper nature now occurs. The system of drinking, which was too common at funerals, has been happily abolished. It is singular that in this quarter, the father, who ought to appear as chief-mourner, seldom attends the funeral of his eldest child. Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday are the common days on which wed-

dings take place,—the people having some absurd superstition against Monday and Friday.

Within the last few years a visible improvement has taken place upon the dress of the people, especially amongst the females,—caps and bonnets being now pretty generally worn. Many of the younger children are dressed in the kilt and hose. The men generally wear the tartan plaid over coats and trowsers of broad cloth. However plain and homely the parishioners may appear to dress in general; for kirk and market they always reserve a suit of good clothes. Of late, there has also been an improvement in cleanliness, although there is still considerable room for more, both without and within doors. Except by a few families, butcher-meat is not much used. Fish is becoming more common amongst the peasantry than formerly, whilst tea and sugar are rapidly gaining ground.

Character of the People.—The parishioners of Knockando are exceedingly kind and hospitable, according to their means; ever ready to pity the sorrows and supply the wants of the vagrant pauper. They are frugal, and, generally speaking, industrious and sober. It is to be regretted that the blessings and benefits of education have not been prized as they ought,—it being not uncommon to find individuals unable to read and write. This, however, is partly accounted for by the former miserable state of the roads. It must also be admitted, that there are too frequent instances of unlawful intercourse between the sexes; and that poaching, both in game and the salmon fishery, prevails to some extent. Smuggling, which was formerly very common, is now almost entirely suppressed.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture and Rural Economy.—Few parishes in Scotland of the same extent contain more waste land capable of improvement and cultivation. A good deal of hill pasture, which was formerly stocked with sheep, is now brought into cultivation. Some of the hills and waste moors might be profitably planted with larches and Scotch firs, which would not only add shelter to the cultivated fields, but at the same time tend much to adorn and beautify the parish.

On the estate of Easter Elchies there are about 500 acres in constant or occasional cultivation, and about 100 which have never been cultivated, the half of which, however, might, by proper draining, be brought under tillage. There is no undivided common, except where turf and peat are cut for fuel.

There are about ninety acres of wood, consisting of Scotch fir

and larch, and fourteen of ash, birch, oak, elm, and beech. There are few or no enclosures, but the state of the farm-buildings and dwelling-houses is improved of late years. As the farms are small, and the tenants industrious, improvements, encouraged by the landlord, during the last seventeen years have made rapid progress, —much aided, no doubt, by the facility with which lime is procured from Mortlach, in consequence of the building of Craig Elachie bridge, and the improved state of the roads. The returns on the best land are six to eight; and on the poorer soils four to five. The weight of hay from sown grasses from 100 to 150 stones per acre.

On the estate of Kirdals there are 572 acres either cultivated or occasionally in tillage; 132 waste or in pasture; 4500 in a state of undivided common; and 400 in wood, consisting of fir, oak, birch, and alder. There are few enclosures; and, with some exceptions, the farm-buildings are rather of an inferior kind. The greatest obstacles to improvement arise from want of capital, and more extensive meliorations. The number of horses amounts to 44; of black cattle to 330; and of sheep to 200. Average gross amount of raw produce raised on the estate: turnips, 30 acres; grain, 1200 bolls; potatoes, 400 bolls; hay, 3000 stones.

On the estates of Wester Elchies and Ballintomb there are about 1170 acres in cultivation, 100 in meadow pasture, and 3400 in hill and moss, 60 for occasional tillage, and 86 for permanent pasture, 200 in natural wood of oak, birch, alder, &c., and 80 in plantations of Scotch, larch, spruce, and silver firs. The want of capital is the chief obstacle to improvement; and although the proprietor allows L. 5 for every improved acre at the end of the lease, few tenants can conveniently want their money so long, chiefly on account of an advance of ten per cent. on the tenth rent, and five per cent. on the fifteenth rent, which per centages continue to the expiry of the nineteen years' lease. There are but few enclosures, and the farm-buildings are generally but indifferent. Stone enclosures are paid by mutual valuation at the conclusion of the lease. There are about 50 pigs, 90 horses, 800 black-cattle, and a few sheep. The average gross amount of produce may be about 50 quarters of wheat; 200 of barley; 45 of pease; 1940 of oats; 350 bolls of potatoes; 25 stones of flax; and 150 to 200 of hay per acre.

No proper return can at present be given for the estate of Knockando.

Rent of Land.—The rent of land varies from 18s. to L. 1, 15s. per acre, the average rent may be from L. 1 to L. 1, 5s. Most of the tenants, however, pay customs to the proprietor in the shape of sheep, hogs, poultry, meal, eggs, and limestone, besides services consisting of a draught of horses and carts for any purpose the proprietor may choose. Some of the proprietors have now converted most of the customs and services into money. The tenants likewise pay road-money. The annual rent of a labourer's house varies from 10s. to L. 1, and with garden and ground from L. 1 to L. 1, 10s.

Wages, &c.—A ploughman receives in the half-year from L. 4 to L. 5, the average about L. 4, 10s.; women from L. 1, 10s. to L. 2; married servants who have houses, from L. 5 to L. 6, with meal and milk; day-labourers, 1s., and women 6d. per day with victuals; harvest labourers 3d. per threave.—Mason and carpenter work are generally performed by contract. When employed per day, a mason will earn 1s. 6d. or 2s. with victuals; a carpenter or wright, 1s. 3d. with do.; a gardener, 1s. 3d. with do.; a shoemaker, 1s. 6d. with do.; a tailor, 1s. with do. The wages of herds vary according to their duties. Ditching costs 1½d. to 4d. per ell, according to the depth; casting of peats per load, 3d. to 3½d.; setting do. ½d. per load; diking from 4d. to 5d. per ell; trenching 4d. to 6d. per rood. For mossing, men receive 1s. 6d., and women, 9d. per day, without victuals; the rate charged for grazing an ox or cow per annum about L. 2; small cattle, L. 1 per head; a sheep or ewe, 2s. do.

Prices of Provisions, Manufactures, Agricultural Implements, &c.—Butter, 9d. per lb.; eggs, from 3d. to 6d. per dozen; skimmed milk, 1d. per Scotch pint; sweet milk, 2d. per do.; pair of fowls, 1s. 6d. to 1s. 8d.; ducks, 1s. 8d. to 2s. per do.; geese, 5s. per do.; common cheese, 4d. to 4½d. per lb.; pair of chickens, 6d. to 8d.; honey, 2s. to 3s. per pint.

Home-made stockings sell from 6d. to 1s. 6d., according to size; plaiding, 1s. per ell; shirting per yard from 1s. and upwards, according to quality; wool and lint, 1s. per lb.; wool per stone, of 28 lbs. L. 1, 1s.; harn, 10d. to 1s. per lb.; sacking, 1s. per do.; sag and sarge from 2s. to 3s. per do.; weaving of plaiding, costs 2d. per ell; weaving of shirting or sheeting, 4d. per ell; spinning, 7d. to 9d. per spindle. An iron plough costs L. 3, 6s.; a wooden plough, L. 2, 10s.; a full-mounted cart, L. 6, 10s.; a wheel-barrow, 10s. 6d.; a pair of harrows (ash) L. 1, 4s.

Price of Wood.—From the different plantations, the inhabitants

of the parish are supplied with wood for paling, roofs of houses and other purposes. On the estates of wester Elchies the average prices are as follows :—Ash, 2s. 6d. per solid foot ; oak, 3s. per do. ; elm 3s. per do. ; alder, 1s. 3d. per do. ; larch, 1s. 3d. per do. Scotch fir, 6d. per do. ; green, 1s. 6d. per do. ; birch, 1s. 2d. per tree.

Duration of Leases, &c.—The general length of the farm leases is for the period of nineteen years ; feus, for thirty-one years ; in the village of Archiestown, there are four perpetual feus.

The chief crops raised in the parish are oats, viz. Hopetoun early and late, Angus, Kildrummy, potatoe and black, oats ; barley and Scotch bear, wheat, pease, beans, potatoes, turnips, flax, and hay. The oats and barley are chiefly sold, the remainder being used in families, or for feeding domestic animals. The potato and turnip crops are consumed in the parish. The rotation of crop generally observed consists in two white crops, one green crop, and two crops of grass. The quantity of grass seeds sown in an acre amounts to eight pounds of clover, mixed with three bushels of rye-grass.

The agriculture of the parish may still be said to be in its infancy ; but improvements are daily taking place in the system of husbandry, and the farmers becoming more sensible of the advantages of liming. The most approved methods of farming have been adopted by Mr Reid on the farm of Easter Elchies, and by the Rev. William Asher on the farm of Nether Tomdow, the greater part of the latter having been recently improved and laid out.

Manufactures.—There are four meal-mills, a waulk-mill, and a carding-mill, in the parish. Saw and thrashing-mills have also been lately added to one of the former description. At the waulk and carding-mills, wool is dyed and manufactured into plaiding and broad-cloth, blankets and carpets. Four hands are employed, but not constantly. A good deal of weaving and spinning used to go on throughout the parish, but there is now much less than formerly. There are two distilleries, one at Cardow, conducted by Mr Cumming ; the other at Macallan, by Mr Reid ; both of which are well known for the very superior quality of the spirit distilled.

Rental.—The valued rent of the parish amounts to L. 1987, the real rent to upwards of L. 3000.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Market-Towns, &c.—There are no market-towns within the bounds of the parish ; the nearest are Charlestown of Aberlour, distant $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the centre, Rothies 10, Dufftown 15, Forres 16, Grantown 16, Elgin, Keith, and Fochabers, 20. There is a

nearer road to Elgin through the Mannoch Hill, about 13 miles in length; but in winter this road is often impassable, being in some places in very bad repair. The greater part of the grain exported from the parish is shipped at Garmouth, the remainder at Lossiemouth and Findhorn.

Village.—The only village is Archiestown, which was built on the moor of Ballintomb, by the late Sir Archibald Grant of Monymusk, about the year 1760, to whom the property then belonged. By an accidental fire in 1783, the village was partly destroyed. The ruins of some houses still remain in the same dilapidated condition, but Archiestown is now beginning, Phoenix-like, to rise from its ashes. Several new houses have been built during the last year, and three are at present in progress of erection. The village consists of a main street, a square and several bye-lanes, and contains 180 inhabitants.

Means of Communication, &c.—There is no post-office in the parish; the letters and newspapers are conveyed twice a-week by a foot-runner to and from the post-office at Craig Elachie. It is to be hoped that the communication will ere long be more frequent. There is a carrier from Aberdeen to Archiestown, once a week, who resides in Rothies. There is also a weekly carrier from the parish to Elgin. The turnpike road from Elgin leading to Dufftown, Grantown, &c. passes through the parish for a very short distance between the bridge and the blue scaur of Craig Elachie. Until lately the parish roads were most miserable. A central road has now been formed for a considerable distance, and is expected soon to be completed. The bye roads are in very bad repair, and several farm-houses are sometimes inaccessible from the state of the roads. At Wester Elchies, there is a ferry boat, which affords communication with Charlestown of Aberlour, &c.; and there is another farther up the river at Black's Boat, in the parish of Inveraven, which leads to Glenlivet, Tomintoul, &c. At both ferries, foot-passengers pay 1d.; the charge for crossing a horse is 4d. Besides the bridge of Craig Elachie over the Spey, there are several bridges of wood and stone over the burns. A new stone bridge is about to be commenced over the burn of Aldarder. The fences are in general very insufficient, and, with the exception of an old hedge or two, consist of rough stone dikes or wooden palings. The bridge of Craig Elachie has been the means of facilitating the improvements of this and all the neighbouring parishes; and could a wooden or other bridge be erected over the Spey at

Tomdow, Kirdals, or any other place towards the top of the parish, it would prove of the utmost utility. This important object well deserves the attention of the landed proprietors, road trustees, and the commissioners for Highland roads and bridges,—more particularly should the proposed new line of road from Perth to Elgin and Forres be carried into effect.

Ecclesiastical State.—The parish church of Knockando, situated about eight miles from the eastern, and seven from the western boundary, is on the whole pretty central for the population. It was built in 1757, almost close to the site of the former one. It was repaired in 1832, and is now one of the neatest churches inside, in this part of the country, but too small for the population. In order to remedy this defect, it is intended very soon to have a dwelling-house in the village of Archiestown, at three miles distance, fitted up as a chapel in connection with the Church of Scotland, in which divine service will be performed once a month, or oftener, by the parish minister. The collection of L. 11, 13s. 1d. Sterling, recently made in the parish in aid of the General Assembly's Church Extension scheme is to be laid out for this purpose; the family of Wester Elchies having kindly granted whatever wood may be required to promote the object. The parish of Knockando would make two sufficient parishes, both in point of extent and population.

Several small benefactions are on record, which have been distributed amongst the poor; and last year a legacy of L. 19, 19s. was bequeathed by a foundling of the parish who died in Aberdeen at an advanced age, and in which city and neighbourhood she had long resided as a servant. The parish church accommodates between 500 and 600 persons. The sittings are all free, and are proportioned to the tenants, according to the valued rents of the heritors. It thus happens, that for the inhabitants of Archiestown and for tradesmen, little church accommodation is provided.

The manse was built in the year 1767, and stands in the immediate vicinity of the church, on an elevated peninsula formed by the Knockando burn, and distant from the river Spey about a mile. The extent of glebe may be about fourteen acres, of which eleven or twelve are arable. Nearly two acres were destroyed by the memorable flood of 1829. The amount of stipend, including communion element allowance, is L. 158, 6s. 8d. and is all paid in money; Knockando being on the list of small livings augmented by Act of Parliament. There are about 320 fami-

lies attending the Established church. There is a small congregation of Independents in the parish, who assemble for public worship in the upper flat of the minister's dwelling-house. There are about eight families of this persuasion in the parish,—a few families from other parishes also attend. The Independent minister rents a small farm. There is also a place of worship occasionally visited in summer by licentiates of the United Secession church. There are no families in the parish who profess to be connected with that body, consequently the congregation is made up of occasional hearers. There are, however, some individuals who generally attend when there is sermon. Only one Roman Catholic is to be found in the parish.

Divine service at the Established church is generally well attended, especially during the summer season; some of the people regularly coming a distance of six or seven miles. A few families occasionally attend the churches of Aberlour, Rothes, and Inveravon, from the greater proximity of these places of worship. The average number of communicants amounts to 370. The parishioners are almost all well affected towards the Established church, in proof of which, it may be stated, that petitions to both Houses of Parliament, praying for the support and extension of the Church of Scotland, were transmitted in February last, signed by upwards of 400 male inhabitants of the parish. The sacrament of the Lord's Supper is dispensed once a-year, previous to which, several diets are held for catechising both the advanced and young communicants. The parishioners are also regularly examined and catechised once a-year, after the conclusion of the harvest season. In the year 1810, four communion cups, and in 1822, two communion plates were gifted to the kirk-session,—the former by Mr George Stewart, merchant, Corgyle of Wester Elchies, and the latter by Mr James Cruickshank, farmer, Bogroy, one of the elders of the parish. The Earl of Seafield is sole patron.*

* The following is a list of the parochial ministers of Knockando: William Watson, minister before 1624, translated to Duthil about 1626; Gilbert Marshall, ordained about 1630, transported to Cromdale 1646; William Chalmers, ordained in 1640, died in 1668; James Gordon, ordained in 1670, transported to Urquhart in 1682; Thomas Grant, ordained in 1683, died about 1700; Alexander Ruddach, ordained at Elchies in 1683; Daniel M'Kenzie, ordained February 12, 1706, transported to Kingussie 1709; James Gordon, ordained in May 1712, died in winter 1725; Hugh Grant, ordained in September 1727, died, 18th September 1763; John Dunbar, ordained 3d May 1764, transported to Dyke and Moy 1788; Francis Grant, admitted 14th August 1788, died 5th November 1805; Lachlan M'Pherson, admitted 3d October 1806, died 14th March 1825; William Asher, ordained 7th September 1826, transported to Inveravon 17th October 1833; George Gordon, ordained 30th January 1834, the present minister.

Education.—There are six schools in the parish, two of which are parochial, three supported by the Society in Scotland for Propagating Christian Knowledge, and one which is unendowed. The last mentioned, and two of the society's schools are taught by females. Each of the parochial schoolmasters has a salary of L. 25, 13s. 3¼d. with a share of the bequest left by the late Mr Dick to the parish teachers in the counties of Moray, Banff, and Aberdeen. The amount of fees at each of the parish schools averages from L. 8 to L. 10 per annum. The school-house of Knockando is at present in very bad repair, and the scholars have no play ground. The school fees vary from 2s. to 5s. per quarter, according to the number of branches which the pupils are learning. The usual branches taught at the parochial schools are, reading, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping, land-measuring, mathematics, geography, English grammar, and Latin, with the Shorter Catechism, and the principles of the Christian religion. The Bible and New Testament are read every day in all the schools of the parish, and the parochial schools and the Society's male school at Archiestown are opened and closed with prayer. In the female schools, sewing, knitting, and samplar work are taught, along with reading, spelling, writing and arithmetic.

There are two Sabbath schools under the superintendence of the minister and elders, which are well attended both by young and grown up persons. It is also intended to have another established. The Independents likewise have a Sabbath school. One of the parochial teachers officiates as session-clerk, with a salary of L. 2, 10s. out of which sum he provides a depute precentor. His fees for proclamations of bans are, 5s. when both the contracting parties reside in the parish, and 3s. 6d. when only one party is resident; for recording baptisms, 1s.; for extracts and certificates, 1s. except when of an unusual length. The session officer has a fee of 16s. 8d. and a small perquisite from the marriage and baptism dues.

Library,—Savings Bank.—At present there is neither a parish library nor a saving bank,—the want of which are felt. It is, however, sincerely to be hoped that means will ere long be found for introducing into the parish these admirable additions to our invaluable Scottish parochial system.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—There are at present thirty-nine individuals on the poor's roll, and upwards of 20 families who occasionally receive supplies during the year. There is a general

distribution once a year, and sometimes oftener, but those who are in immediate want receive additional allowances as necessity requires, from 2s. 6d. to 10s. During the year 1834, the collections amounted to L. 30, including ordination and sacramental occasions. The collections at the church, the interest of L. 60 in the British Linen Company's Bank, with occasional donations and penalties, form the only means from whence the poor are supported. The heritors allow L. 10 per annum for the support of each of two pauper lunatics, one of whom is boarded in a farmhouse, and the other lodged in a house, rent free. Whilst it must be admitted that the reluctance to apply for parochial aid is not gaining ground, yet, the spirit of true Scottish independence is still to be seen in the parish; and last year a case of this kind occurred, when a poor woman in Easter Elchies, to whom the kirk-session sent half-a-crown as an occasional supply, returned the money, saying that, as long as she had her cow, she would not accept of one single farthing. At present there is no pauper in the district of Easter Elchies. The parish is much infested by sturdy beggars, and tinkers, especially during the summer season, who drain away a great deal of what might otherwise be given to the home-poor.

Inns, &c.—There are four public-houses in the parish, three of which are in the village of Archiestown, and the other at the boat of Wester Elchies. One in Archiestown is perfectly sufficient. The effect of such a number is decidedly most injurious to the morals of the people. It is to be feared that there are also some individuals who do not scruple to sell whisky even without a license.

Fuel.—The fuel chiefly used consists of peat and turf, taken from the different mosses. Wood is also burned, but, owing to the distance from the sea-coast, very few coals are consumed.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The most striking variation between the present state of the parish and that which existed at the time of the last Statistical Account, consists in the suppression of smuggling, and the consequent greater attention paid to agriculture, and the rearing of cattle, together with the quantity of moorland which has been improved. Draining and liming are much wanted, and also fences for the protection of the fields from the inroads of cattle, and foot-passengers. There is no agricultural Society connected with the parish. The formation of a local or district society for the improvement of farming and breeds of cattle and horses would be

highly useful ; and if premiums were to be occasionally awarded by the proprietors for the best kept cottages and neatest gardens on their estates, the advantages would be very great, there being much room for improvement in cleanliness. We have much pleasure, however, in pointing out Corgyle Cottage, the tasteful residence of Mr Robert Stewart, merchant, which, both in external and internal arrangements, affords an example of neatness to the country around. The school-house of Elchies has also been very prettily dressed up, and is neatly kept by Mr Charles Grant, the present teacher. Grant and Robertson are the most common surnames in Knockando. The late Robert Grant, Esq. of Wester Elchies, had a small medical garden. Several of the plants still remain, including agrimony, camomile, costmary, crowfoot, elder, garlick, black hellebore, lavender, marsh-mallow, mint, mustard, rosemary, rhubarb, saffron, sage, Solomon's seal, savine, saxifrage, sorrel, thyme, valerian, trefoil, horehound, &c. &c.

August 1835.

PARISH OF BIRNIE.

PRESBYTERY OF ELGIN, SYNOD OF MORAY.

THE REV. GEORGE GORDON, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name, &c.—THIS parish, in some old writings, is called “Brenuth.” No satisfactory derivation has yet been assigned to the name.*

Extent and Boundaries.—The outline of the parish of Birnie approaches an oblong ; with its narrower extremity on the north, and within $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles of the burgh of Elgin, it runs due south for 7 miles, averaging $1\frac{3}{4}$ in breadth. It is bounded on the east, north, and west, by the parish of Elgin, and is separated from the parish of Knockando on the south by the junction of the parishes of Dallas and Rothes. Birnie lies on the north side of the high ground which rises between the Spey and the flat of Moray. From its highest elevation, at the Manoch-hill, of about 1000 feet, it has a gradual fall,—till at its northern boundary it is less than 50 feet

* Shaw derives it from “*Brenoth*, i. e. a brae, or high land.”

above the level of the Moray Frith. The surface is uneven, intersected by a few ravines and water terraces, and studded over with many alluvial knolls.

Climate.—The superiority of the climate of the lower districts of the province of Moray over that of some more southern counties, may in a great measure be accounted for by the little elevation at which these districts stand above the level of the sea,—the absence of any mountain range to attract the watery clouds,—the neighbouring waters of the frith preventing such extremes of temperature as are experienced in more inland situations,—but perhaps chiefly by the dry and sandy soil speedily absorbing the rain after it falls.

Rivers, &c.—The small river Lossie, rising in the parish of Edinkillie, enters the parish of Dallas, the lower part of which, Kellas, is evidently the bed of an old and extensive lake.* The river, leaving this ancient bed, runs in a deep and lengthened channel, cut through the solid rock, which formerly had been the barrier of the lake. In this water-worn channel, several of the peculiar characters of the rock (gneiss) and its quartzose veins are to be met with. The Lossie forms the western boundary of the parish of Birnie for about 2 miles, then enters the ancient bed of another lake, which had extended from Birnie to Aldroughty, and after a course of about 25 miles, excluding windings, joins the Moray Frith at Stotfield-head. Small though this stream appears, it is yet found extremely difficult in many places to keep it within its proper channel. At one part of its course where it touches and intersects a corner of this parish, it has brought down from the higher ground, and thrown up such quantities of shingle and coarse gravel, as, instead of forming any protection to the adjoining land, often stop up the old run, and make the water diverge into a new course. At this place, it has within the last hundred years swept away many acres of good land, and is at this day, from want of sufficient bulwarks, cutting and washing away a field of a soil inferior to few within the county.

Geology, Soils, &c.—The Grampian range, both on the north and south sides, and its subordinate chains of primitive mountains, are flanked by the rocks of the old red sandstone formation. Within the province of Moray, these secondary rocks dip into what is geologically termed the basin of the Moray Frith. They form both banks of the Spey for several miles above its influx. Thence

* *Vide* Sir Thomas Dick Lauder's Account of the Moray Floods of 1829.

they may be traced in a westerly direction through the parish of Birnie, in the northern half of which they form the underlying rocks. The southern half lies on gneiss, destitute alike of such metallic veins and calcareous beds as this rock in many other places is found to contain. The lowest beds of the old red sandstone here present a very hard, compact and flinty appearance, very different from the overlying conglomerates, which are comparatively easily disintegrated by the weather, and cut into deep ravines by the smallest rivulets. With the exception of a few detached patches of lias, which are met with between the town of Elgin and the frith, the old red sandstone formation (including some rather unusual subordinate strata of cornstone and yellowish gray sandstone, destitute of fossils,) comprehends all the secondary rocks of the lower part of Elginshire, so that, notwithstanding the traditional and long cherished hope, the true coal measures need not be looked for in it. Neither the gneiss nor harder strata of the sandstone have been quarried in this parish, the outliers or boulder stones being abundant enough for all the building required. The softer conglomerates and upper beds are unsuitable for this purpose.

Over the rocks that lie *in situ*, there is generally such a depth of sand, gravel, and other alluvial matter, that they have little or no influence on the soil. However, when the softer varieties of the conglomerate approach the surface, the soil partakes much of the component parts of the rock, and thereby becomes one of the most fertile and productive. The productiveness of the soils here seems to depend as much, if not more, upon the character of the subsoil, than upon the proportion in which their own ingredients meet. The prevailing soil in cultivation is of a gravelly or sandy nature; but examples present themselves at no great distance from each other, not unfrequently on the same farm, running from a deep retentive clay, through the rich haugh loam, up to the light sandy soil of the gravelly bank.

Several large granitic boulder stones are to be met with here, as in other places, far from their parent rocks, and are lasting monuments of the impetuosity with which the floods and currents of water, in a bygone period, have swept the surface of the globe. Peat of good quality, with imbedded trunks and roots of fir and other trees, is found near the top of the Manoch-hill, and in a hollow near the glen of Rothies. Formerly there was much of it carried to and sold in Elgin; but the more general use of coal has superseded in a great measure the use of peat as fuel.

Botany.—*Juncus balticus*, *Lapsana pusilla*, *Potamogeton heterophyllus*, *Hieracium denticulatum*, *Listera cordata*, *Pyrola media*, *Rhinanthus major*, and *Aspidium Filix fœmina* may be enumerated among the rarer Scottish phænogamous plants found in this parish. The water lily (*Nymphæa alba*) noticed in the last Account, has disappeared, the lake having been drained many years ago. Until lately, there were no plantations of any description within the parish, which could only shew a few straggling alders and willows by the sides of the rivulets, or the still rarer ashes which served to mark the narrow confines of what was once the kail-yard. Within the last twenty years, 274 imperial acres have been planted in separate lots, with larch and Scotch fir. They promise so well, that it is to be regretted this improvement has not been carried on to a much greater extent, as there are extensive tracts of land, lying waste, that could not be better appropriated than for plantations of firs and even of harder woods.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Land-owners.—The Right Honourable the Earl of Scafield is sole proprietor of Birnie. There are, in his Lordship's possession, a plan of the whole parish in 1784, (five Scots chains to the inch,) and detached surveys of most of it that have also been completed since that date.

Parochial Registers.—The parish registers do not reach beyond last century. At the first meeting of the kirk-session after the battle of Culloden, there is the following entry in the handwriting of the incumbent, who had made himself so obnoxious to the Jacobites, that he was obliged to go south to meet the Duke of Cumberland for protection. “Birny, 16th June 1746. The collections since last distribution (December 1745) amounted to no more than seven Ls. nine sh. (Scots,) occasioned by the rebels, their having been so long in this country.”

Antiquities.—The *Bishop's Church* was first at Birnie, afterwards at Keneddar, then at Spynie, and last of all at Elgin. About forty years ago, the foundations of an extensive building were dug up in the corner of a field, which had formerly the name of Castlehill.* On this site likely stood the ancient Episcopal residence.

The present church is probably the oldest place of worship now used in the country. Like those of the more dignified structures of Roman Catholic times, the walls are built inside as well as on the

* The place now called Castlehill received its name from some families, who, removing from the old situation, carried the name along with them to their new settlement.

outside with square cut ashlar work of freestone, and to this day stand perpendicular as they did hundreds of years ago. In 1734, this ancient structure seems to have been shortened by a few feet; and the west gable, though then renewed with the same materials, does not exhibit the skill and workmanship of the older walls. It is situated on the top of a small rising ground, similar to stations sometimes occupied by the stone circles that have hitherto been deemed of Druidical, but are now thought to be of Scandinavian origin. And that this was probably the site of one of these circles, may be inferred from several large granitic stones (some of them with figures resembling parallelograms, rudely drawn on them,) being built into the surrounding churchyard wall, and which are not likely to have been carried thither for any recent purpose. The first preachers of the gospel may thus have taken advantage of the natural awe with which the natives regarded the place where their religious rites were performed, and would thereby gain attention, at least, to the new doctrines which were also to be delivered there. It is perhaps to this heathenish awe, as well as to the circumstance of this place being one of the mother churches, or one of the earliest consecrated grounds of the Roman hierarchy in the north of Scotland, that we are to trace that superstitious feeling with which this particular church and burial-ground are even still regarded by some. The stone baptistry and old bell, noticed in last account, are still preserved in the church. A sketch of the latter antique curiosity has been given by Sir Thomas Dick Lauder, in his very interesting account of the Moray Floods. The remaining antiquities comprehend the Bible stone, the cairn of Kilforman, rectangular trenches, or, as some say, a Roman castra at the Fotlis, and a Danish encampment at the Shogle. The last having hitherto escaped the ploughshare is still "to be traced in a well-aired dry situation, watered on the west side by the burn of Bardon, and fortified on the east and north by a valley. It commands a prospect of the Moray Frith from Speymouth to Cromarty bay," and is just at that part of the ascending ground whence the first view of the great Danish stronghold of Burghead can be had over the sandstone ridge of the Knock of Alves. In confirmation of the opinion that there once existed a stronghold of the Danes in this situation, it may be stated that the adjoining farm still retains the name of Edinburgh; and, notwithstanding that a very different derivation for this name is current in the neighbourhood, the term *burgh* most likely marks it as a place known to the Scandinavian tribes.

III.—POPULATION.

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----------------|-----|
| In 1755, the population was | 525 | In 1811, it was | 357 |
| 1781, | 460 | 1821, | 384 |
| 1791, | 402 | 1831, | 408 |
| 1801, | 366 | | |

Of 405 individuals within this parish in April last,
 $32\frac{4}{8}$ per cent. were under 15 years of age.
 $24\frac{1}{8}$ do. betwixt 15 and 30
 $25\frac{7}{8}$ do. do. 30 50
 $12\frac{6}{8}$ do. do. 50 70
 $4\frac{3}{8}$ do. upwards of 70

The following table contrasts the present state of the parish with that shewn in the last Statistical Account (in 1795.)

| | 1795. | 1835. |
|---|--------|----------------|
| Average number of births for eight years preceding, | 9 | $9\frac{5}{8}$ |
| Do. marriages, do. | 2 | $1\frac{3}{8}$ |
| Married persons within the parish, | 128 | 112 |
| Widowers, | 10 | 5 |
| Widows, | 12 | 18 |
| Average number of births from each marriage, | 5 | $4\frac{5}{9}$ |
| of children alive in each family, | - | $3\frac{1}{5}$ |
| Number of inhabitants under 10 years of age, | 101 | 91 |
| 20 | 85 | 92 |
| 50 | 113 | 152 |
| 70 | 85 | 52 |
| 90 | 16 | 16 |
| 100 | 2 | 2 |
| Number of teachers, | 1 | 2 |
| young persons at school, | 20 | 41 |
| members of Established Church, | 400 | 400 |
| Seceders and Dissenters, | 2 | 5 |
| males employed chiefly as farm-servants, | 22 | 60 |
| females, do. do. | 17 | 33 |
| day-labourers, | 2 | 12 |
| weavers, | 8 | 3 |
| employed as masters or apprentices of other trades, | 14 | 21 |
| inhabited houses, | 85 | 77 |
| farms of and above L. 50 yearly rent, | 2 | 8 |
| do. under do. | 40 | 38 |
| arable acres (Scots,) | 850 | 1600 |
| imperial acres in plantations, | 0 | 304 |
| Real rent in Sterling money (in 1791,) | L. 375 | L. 1200 |

Had such a table as the above been constructed a year ago, the population would have been found to have exceeded the Government census of 1831. A few have emigrated to America or removed otherwise from the parish; but the decrease within so short a period has been chiefly owing to scarlet fever, which for several months has been frequent and fatal in this neighbourhood. The mistaken but still practised friendship of visiting and crowding the sick-room, and the no less reprehensible reluctance to call in medical advice, or early to remove the patient to Gray's Hospital at Elgin,—while these are the surest means of spreading and continu-

ing the disease among the community,—are not the best or wisest for hastening the cure of the afflicted.

Character, &c. of the People.—Improved in the cleanliness of their habits, and in the quality and neatness of their Sabbath day attire, diligent in their various callings, and attentive to their religious and moral duties in public and private,—there are perhaps few rural communities that, “upon the whole, enjoy in a higher degree the comforts and advantages of society, or are more contented with their situation and circumstances.” For these comforts, they are indebted chiefly to the liberal system of management which has been adopted in this part of the Seafield property, where an allowance (of L. 5) is given to the tenant for every acre that he takes from the waste ground, improves and adds to the arable land of his farm. The enterprising tenant has thus been enabled to lime his field, and to reap such returns as no other application could secure.

The habits, the comforts, and the morals of the peasantry of the north of Scotland experienced a beneficial change when illicit distillation was suppressed: and this was the case in few districts to a greater degree than in the upper parts of Moray—where night was turned into day, the farm and family neglected, and all credit and character perilled in this demoralizing manufacture and traffic. All, however, now allow that the well filled stack-yard is a more becoming appendage, than the *bothie*, to the farm; and few of the oldest smugglers deny that the suppression of their trade has turned out, in the end, as beneficial for themselves as it was, at the time, just to others.

In this parish, the good effects of the entire absence of the spirit-retailer, as well as of the complete suppression of illicit distillation and smuggling, are to be clearly seen, and are thankfully acknowledged. There is a licensed malt barn; but neither fair nor village, neither inn, alehouse, nor gin-shop, nor manufacturers, nor lawyers, are within its bounds. Elgin, distant about six miles from the centre of this parish, is the post-town, and the market for all commodities.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.—The parish of Birnie contains, by measurement, 5784 Scots acres; of which 829 were in cultivation in 1784, the rest in pasture, moor, moss, and waste ground. At present, there are about 1600 Scots acres arable, 304 imperial acres under wood, and, of the remainder, 400 acres might, with a profitable application of capital, be reclaimed and added to the cultivated ground.

Rent of Land.—The average rent of the arable land is 15s. per Scots acre; and the duration of leases generally nineteen years.

Husbandry.—The farms are usually managed under a six-shift course, viz. 1st, Wheat from grass manured; 2d, Oats; 3d, Turnips; 4th, Barley with grass seeds; 5th, Grass, (generally cut for hay;) 6th, Grass always pastured. It may not be thought a correct mode of husbandry to have two white or corn crops in succession; but the grass for wheat is always well manured, and the oat crop following is generally excellent. And, when a liberal allowance of bone dust, or well prepared manure is given to the turnip crop, and attention paid to cleaning, the land is kept in good condition under this system.

Cattle, &c.—The cattle are mostly a cross breed between the low country cows of Moray with West Highland bulls; and by considerable care and attention on the part of the breeders, the stock have been much improved of late years. The horses are small, but very active, and admirably adapted for ploughing the light land, of which this parish is chiefly composed. The old breed of sheep (which were small, with reddish-brown faces and legs,) have given place to the Cheviot, which were introduced into this country some considerable time ago, by a gentleman who now has the greater part of the hill grounds of Birnie, in conjunction with a part of the Rothies hills, under lease, and on which he has an ewe stock of Cheviot sheep, managed on the same system with the other large sheep stocks in the north of Scotland, and also under the charge of shepherds brought from the border counties. By this management, the tacksman is enabled to afford a considerable rent for hills which not many years ago yielded little or nothing to the landlord.

Produce.—The following is an approximation to the annual value of raw produce raised in the parish.

| | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---------|
| Grain of all kinds, | - | - | - | - | - | - | L. 3000 |
| Potatoes, turnips, &c. | - | - | - | - | - | - | 830 |
| Flax, | - | - | - | - | - | - | 15 |
| Land in Pasture for cattle at L. 1, 10s. per head, and at 2s. 6d. for sheep, | | | | | | | 890 |

L. 4735

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Means of Communication.—The success of agriculture and the condition of farms have not inaptly been said to depend upon good roads, as the comfort and health of the animal frame depend upon the soundness of its blood-vessels. To secure good roads, then, ought to be the first object with every improving landlord.

By act of Parliament, the statute labour of Birnie has been converted, and yields only L. 14,—a sum quite inadequate to keep the old in repair, and of course unfit for the construction of new roads; so that the parish roads have become almost proverbially bad. Much reliance, however, is placed on the liberality of the Honourable Colonel Grant of Grant, and on his long experienced attention to the wishes of the Seafield tenantry; and it is confidently expected, that the making and repair of roads in this district will keep pace with his other territorial improvements. An earnest of this is afforded in his having lately ordered a survey of the main line, upon a plan which, when completed, will secure to the parish of Birnie a properly conducted and well-made road from north to south.

Ecclesiastical State.—The church, the only place of public worship within the parish, is not centrically placed for the population, being six miles distant from the southern boundary. There is no tradition as to the time when it was erected; its interior was repaired in 1817, and affords legal accommodation for 253 persons. The whole of the seats, (except a gallery, erected by the kirk-session, and let for behoof of the poor,) are allocated to the different farms, and are often found to be given not in proportion to the number of individuals that reside on these divisions of the parish. The manse, the walls of which are of an old date, underwent considerable alterations in 1811, but cannot be said to be in a state of good repair. The extent of the glebe, including garden, &c. is about eight acres of good land, which would rent for about L. 2 per acre. By decree of the Court of Session in 1813, the stipend is 14 bolls, 3 firlots, 2½ lippies victual, 3 pecks and ⅓ of a lippy meal, and L. 102, 4s. 5½d. Sterling money.

The average number of communicants is 90; of whom 39 are male heads of families. There is no missionary or catechist; and the parishioners are seldom called upon to contribute to religious or charitable purposes carried on beyond their own immediate sphere. There are 5 individuals in the parish, Dissenters.

Education.—There are two schools, the parochial, and a female school. The parochial schoolmaster has the legal accommodation and L. 26 of salary, with about L. 4 for school fees. The school expenses of the pupils for the year may run from 6s. to 8s. There are some parts of the parish so distant from the parochial school that young children residing there cannot attend; but this has of late been in some measure obviated by the endeavours of the schoolmistress to support herself by teaching in the southern district of

the parish. L. 2 from the Earl of Seafield, a free house and yard, and the school fees (which must be but trifling) make up the sum of her emoluments—with the exception of what she wins by needle-work.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—For the last seven years, the average number of poor who have received parochial relief is 10; and the average sum yearly given to each in the same period is L. 1, 5s. The parish funds arise from the ordinary collections at the church, amounting to L. 8 per annum, one-tenth of Darkland's mortification, amounting to L. 3, 3s. 4d., rent of session loft in the church amounting to L. 2, and L. 1 from the Earl of Seafield in lieu of an old gallery. The sum of L. 100 gradually accumulated by the surplus funds, and by a donation of L. 30, has just been placed at interest, and will materially add to the annual allowances of the poor. There has here never been any assessment for the poor, who in most if not in all cases are driven only by want to seek relief from the parish funds. But when they have been once admitted on the roll, they become generally as reluctant to resign their portion, even when their circumstances have improved, in behalf of the more necessitous, as they were at first to accept it.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

There is at present the same number of inhabitants in this parish as at the date of last Statistical Account, forty years ago; but in this interval they seem to have first decreased by one-eighth, and then regained their former numbers.

The more marked differences that have taken place in that time besides those already noticed are, *1st*, The extensive and valuable additions which have been made to the arable land, which since 1784 has almost been doubled; *2d*, The improved management of farms, cattle, and farm produce; and *3d*, The consequent increase of comfort in the diet, clothing, and dwellings of the people. Within the last twenty years, many fences and several sheltering plantations have been reared; but there is still much room left for such enclosures.

In conclusion, it may be safely stated, that there are few, if any, districts in the north of Scotland, where, in despite of the wretched state of the roads, greater agricultural improvements have of late been made than in the parish of Birnie. These improvements have been accomplished, by the exertions of an active tenantry, directed by the judicious suggestions and management of the gentleman who has the charge of this portion of the noble proprietor's extensive domains.

September 1835.

PARISH OF ABERNETHY.

PRESBYTERY OF ABERNETHY, SYNOD OF MORAY.

THE REV. DONALD MARTIN, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Extent, Boundaries.—THE parish of Kincardine has been united to this parish; and both lie on the south-east side of the river Nethy. The parish extends from the borders of Cromdale to Rothiemurchus. The river Spey, expanded apparently to its greatest magnitude, glides onward in a smooth unruffled course, from Rothiemurchus till it meets the district of Moray, near the middle of Abernethy, the lower end of which parish falls within the county of Inverness.

Topographical appearances, &c.—The mountains of Cairngorm (the blue mountains) rise to a conspicuous elevation on the southern boundary of the parish. They are seldom wholly free from snow. The forests cannot extend themselves to a great height on their sides. There are beautiful topaz stones of all colours found on these hills, capable of being polished for ornamenting rings and finishing seals.

There are several lakes in the parish. That of Glenmore in Kincardine is nearly circular, and about 2 miles in diameter. It occupies the middle of an aged forest of firs, which, when sold by the late Duke of Gordon, was considered to be of the largest and best timber in Scotland; and the progress of a new growth of timber in the forest is now so great that the result must one day be very profitable. The lake discharges into the Spey a stream which has a course of 6 miles. In this quarter, there is a lake in the hollow of a mountain, which neither takes in nor emits any stream; but the rocky banks rise around to a great height, and are clothed with the ever verdant pine. This lake is stored with abundance of fat trout.

The Nethy, from which the parish takes its name, is only a brook in dry weather; but is occasionally swelled to such a degree as to float down timber to the saw-mills or to the Spey.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Land-owners.—The Earl of Seafield is proprietor of the great estate of Grant. The chief persons of the Grant family have been baronets for several centuries; and have maintained very respectable characters. His Lordship's heir-apparent is Colonel the Honourable Francis William Grant of Grant, who has several sons.

Eminent Men.—Connected with this parish was Francis Grant, Lord Cullen, an eminent lawyer and Judge in Scotland, and born about the year 1660. He distinguished himself at the Revolution by a treatise which he wrote to prove that James had abdicated the crown, at the time of agitating the question of the Union of England and Scotland. He was created a baronet by Queen Anne, and about a year after was appointed a Judge. He died in the sixty-sixth year of his age.

Patrick Grant was born in Edinburgh, in 1696, and in 1754 was made one of the Lords of Session, with the title of Lord Preston-grange. He also was connected with this parish. He wrote several tracts against the Rebellion of 1745, and was a distinguished lawyer. He died at Edinburgh in the sixty-fourth year of his age.

III.—POPULATION.

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|------|
| Amount of population in 1811, | . | 1709 |
| 1821, | . | 1968 |
| 1831, | . | 2092 |

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|---|-----|
| The number of families is | . | . | . | 445 |
| chiefly employed in agriculture, | . | . | . | 204 |
| trade, manufactures, and handicraft, | . | . | . | 79 |

IV.—INDUSTRY.

I am informed that there are 7000 acres of the Grant estate, in Abernethy, under fir of natural growth. The arable ground in the parish bears but a small proportion to the uncultivated,—a great part of the surface being covered with wood. There are some farms in the parish in a high degree of improvement,—having substantial and commodious buildings, and fields properly cultivated by strong horses and implements of the best form.

An uninterrupted manufacture of timber has been carried on in the Abernethy district for more than sixty years. The York Building Company, in 1728, purchased the timber of the woods of Abernethy to a great amount. Extensive, indeed, was their beginning; every kind of implement was of the best form: saw-mills, smelting furnaces for iron ore, manufacturing bricks, &c. &c.—all surprising novelties in the place,—were commenced, and carried on for seven years. They imparted much useful know-

ledge to the people, and taught them dexterity in many operations.

For a considerable length of time past, the improvement in agriculture in this parish has been great; and is likely to continue. This has been occasioned chiefly by the command of lime, which happily is found here in various places; and abundance of peats and decaying timber, for burning that valuable article, is found all over the parish. This mode of cultivating and improving the ground is found so beneficial, that there is not an individual of even the lower order of farmers, (such as pay no more than L. 6 of rent annually,) who has not a lime-kiln in use. This manure not only promotes the increase of corn, &c. but greatly meliorates the pasture for cattle, and increases both the quantity and quality of hay.

The proprietor, most prudently and most beneficially to all ranks of farmers, gives a fixed sum for every acre of waste ground brought into a state of cultivation.

I cannot obtain any accurate account of the yearly amount and value of raw produce raised in the parish.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Ecclesiastical State.—The church of Kincardine is very well built and finished, and is 7 miles distant from the manse. It affords sufficient room for 600 persons. The church in the district of Abernethy is very sufficiently built, well supplied with light, and commodiously fitted up with seats. There is a beautiful seat in the gallery, opposite to the pulpit, intended for the use of the family of the heritor. The church can accommodate 1000 persons. The parish was accommodated with a catechist, by the Committee for managing the Royal Bounty, since the year 1790. But the old man died two years ago, and the salary was withdrawn. It is well known that the abolition of that cheap office produces a deplorable ignorance of the doctrines of salvation.

Education.—I can give a very favourable report of the parochial school, in which there are seldom fewer than 100 scholars. Mr M'Donald (now upwards of thirty-one years in office) very successfully teaches Latin, English, arithmetic, book-keeping, English-grammar, writing, and mathematics. There are many young men now conducting business prosperously who had been educated at this school; and we have to ascribe their success to the instructions they here received. We have at Kincardine, a school,

supported by the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge. When I came to this parish I instituted several Sabbath evening schools, which have become an eminent blessing to the people; and I shall encourage them while I live.

September 1835.

PARISH OF NEW SPYNIE.

PRESBYTERY OF ELGIN, SYNOD OF MORAY.

THE REV. ALEXANDER SIMPSON, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—SPYNIE, the ancient name of this parish, is derived from the Loch known by that name, which, before it was drained, bounded the parish along its north side.

Extent, Boundaries.—This parish is nearly 4 miles long, and 2 miles broad, and therefore consists of about 8 square miles. It is bounded on the south by the river Lossie, excepting a fine field of about 50 acres called Burrough-bridge, which belongs to this parish, though on the south side of the river.* It is bounded on the west by the parish of Alves; on the east by the parish of St Andrews; and on the north by the parishes of Duffus and Drainie, or, in other words, by the ground anciently covered by the loch of Spynie. About a mile from the east end of the parish, a ridge of moor stretches almost to its west end, for the distance of about 3 miles, rising gradually towards the west, into a pretty high hill, and clothed almost throughout its whole extent with thriving plantations of fir, intersected with other forest trees,—excepting one little farm, near its centre, quite embosomed in the wood. Along the south side of the highest part of this hill, about a mile north-west of Elgin, there is a large extent of flourishing oak wood, the property of the Earl of Fife, allowed to be one of

* The reason of this is, that the Lossie anciently ran close by the town, as appears from the title-deeds of the properties in the adjoining quarter of the burgh,—which still bound these properties by the river, though the valuable field above referred to, now the property of the Earl of Seafield, has been from time immemorial interjected between them. The reverse of this has happened a little lower down the river, in a small semicircular field, called Dean's Crook, which has been evidently cut off from the cathedral lands of Elgin, by the river occupying the diameter, instead of the periphery, which is now for the most part a cultivated field.

the finest forests in the country, and seen to a great advantage rising up the hill in fine inequalities.

Soil and Climate.—Upon each side of this ridge, lies almost the whole of the cultivated land, in which almost every variety of soil is to be seen, from the richest clay to the most barren sand. The air is healthy, and on the south side of the hill peculiarly soft and warm, during a great proportion of the year. On the north side, the climate is not so pleasant, the soil being rather damp and cold. The inhabitants, however, are quite healthy, and the soil has been much improved by draining.

Loch of Spynie.—The loch of Spynie was formerly more than 3 miles in length, and about 1 in breadth; and the sole of it being considered valuable, if the water were drained off, a contract for executing that undertaking was entered into by the conterminous heritors, in the spring of the year 1807, and a tolerably complete drainage was effected, at the expense of L. 10,744 Sterling; but unfortunately after that great outlay, the ground was found to be so impregnated with sulphur and iron ore, as to be almost totally barren. Almost the only beneficial results from the great outlay have been,—the redeeming from the influence of the water of the loch the rich clay lands which formerly surrounded its margin, and were occasionally flooded by its overflow.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Land-owners.—The only land-owners are the Crown, the Earl of Fife, the Trustees of the late Earl of Fife, the Earl of Seafield, Mr Sellar of Westfield, and the Heirs of the late Colonel Grant of Findrassie.

Antiquities.—The palace of Spynie, the ancient residence of the Bishops of Moray, is situated in the eastern extremity of the parish, on the south bank of the ancient lake where the water had been deepest. The palace had been a magnificent and spacious building, round a square court, having the gate on the west side, and fortified by towers at the corners, and a dry ditch on the west and south,—and containing lofty halls, deep vaults, a chapel, stables and other offices. These ruins are now in a very dilapidated state, and so rent as to be incapable of repair. Around the ruins are some bishop's lands, now in the hands of the Crown. Their extent is 227 acres, of which about 36 acres are arable, 118 moor and pasture, and 73 plantation. Within the last eight years, the Barons of Exchequer have greatly improved these Crown lands, by laying out

judiciously about L. 900, in enclosing with stone dikes, and planting, and in building a keeper's cottage, to whom they allow L. 5 yearly, for taking care of the place, and looking after the planting. A large portion of the moor is at present in course of being rendered arable; for doing which, the Barons allow the tenant L. 5 per Scots acre.

In the year 1828, the heritors united in building, at the expense of about L. 30, a substantial stone wall, pointed with lime, around the much neglected and unprotected churchyard of Spynie, the old wall having totally crumbled down; and completed the enclosure with a cast-iron gate. This is the only burying ground in the parish, and consists of about an acre finely situated.

Parochial Register.—The earliest entry in the parochial register of baptisms was made in the year 1708; and since that period the register has been pretty regularly kept.

III.—POPULATION.

| | | | |
|----------|---|---|------|
| In 1801, | . | . | 843 |
| 1811, | . | . | 816 |
| 1821, | . | . | 996 |
| 1831, | . | . | 1121 |

The population has evidently been increased by the building of the village of Bishopmill, which contains 621 inhabitants; while the rest of the parish contains only 500. In several parts of the parish, a number of crofts have been long ago converted into farms,—which has greatly diminished the population in the country.

| | |
|--|-----|
| The yearly average of births for the last seven years is | 24 |
| of marriages, | 8 |
| The number of families is | 259 |
| inhabited houses is | 207 |
| uninhabited houses, or now building, is | 4 |
| Number of families chiefly employed in agriculture, | 50 |
| in trade, manufacture, and handicraft, | 81 |

During the last three years there have been 6 illegitimate births in the parish.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.—The number of acres, standard imperial measure, which are either cultivated or occasionally in tillage, is 3176; constantly waste or in pasture, 471.^a

The uncultivated land is chiefly that part of the bed of the ancient lake which belongs to this parish; a much greater part of which belongs to the parishes of Duffus, Drainie, and St Andrews. It affords coarse pasture for cattle, but proves neither nutritive nor wholesome, and has the strange effect of changing the colour of black cattle grazing on it, into gray.

By draining, embanking and substantial sluices; by trenching

down the sandy surface, and turning up the clayey subsoil to the summer sun and winter frost; by purifying and enriching it with lime and other manure,—posterity may yet convert this large extent of ground into a beautiful and fertile field. The number of acres under wood, natural and planted, is 1411.

Rent of Land.—The average rent of arable land per acre in the parish is about L. 1, 10s. The real rent of the parish is L. 4764.

Stock.—There are now few sheep in the parish, the former pasture for them being either planted with wood, or cultivated and brought into tillage. The most approved breeds of cattle have been gradually introduced by some of the farmers; and much attention paid to their improvement. The Earl of Seafield, for a number of years past, has encouraged his tenants to cultivate the waste ground on their farms, by affording them L. 5 per Scots acre for what they bring into a proper state of tillage. Some of the tenants of the Earl of Fife have of late years made considerable additions to their farms, by cultivating waste ground, with great industry, at an expense of from L. 5 to L. 10 per acre. Mr Selar of Westfield has, for a number of years past, been tastefully dividing and inclosing his property with hedges, beautifying and sheltering it with belts of plantations, enriching the soil with lime and marl, and making substantial roads.

The estate of Findrassie had been for many generations possessed by the Leslies of Findrassie, and was, in 1825, purchased from Sir Charles Leslie, the present Baronet, by Colonel Grant of the H. E. I. C. S. now deceased, son of the late Provost Grant of Forres. Colonel Grant was the only residing heritor in the parish, and during the time he had the estate, very much improved it, by judicious draining, fencing, planting, trenching waste ground, and bringing it into a proper state of tillage. He also made an addition to the mansion-house, and otherwise much improved it.

The general duration of leases is for nineteen years. The farm buildings are for the most part commodious squares, and suitable to the respective farms, though in general they are thatched, instead of being slated. The enclosures are made either with substantial stone dikes, or hedges, excepting temporary ones with paling.

Quarries.—There is, near the summit of Quarrywood-hill, a free-stone quarry, very hard and durable, which supplies a large extent of country with mill-stones, and the town of Elgin and neighbourhood with stones for building. Towards the foot of the hill, on the south side, there is a fine quarry from which it is supposed

the Elgin cathedral had been built. From this quarry Dr Gray's Hospital, Elgin, was built, and is hence called the Hospital Quarry. The stones are susceptible of a fine polish; they are of a beautiful yellow or cream colour, and are often found of large dimensions, fit for pillars and lobby pavements. The whole of this hill seems to be a mass of excellent sandstone.

There are also fine freestone quarries on the Seafield property,—from which a considerable portion of that property has been lately inclosed with substantial stone dikes, and from which the village of Bishopmill has been built. The Findrassie property affords quarries of freestone fit for common buildings, and excellent for dikes.

There is in the parish, a bleachfield for linens and yarns: it lies in the eastmost part of the parish, on the north side of the river Lossie, within half a mile of Elgin.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Village.—There is only one village in the parish,—that of Bishopmill. It is almost close to Elgin, the market-town, and by the late Reform Act is included in that burgh. This parish enjoys peculiar means of communication, no part of it being inconveniently distant from either of the harbours of Lossiemouth and Burghead or the markets of Elgin,—to which last there is at all times an uninterrupted access by one cast iron, and two handsome stone bridges. One of these bridges is where the post-road to Forres crosses the Lossie, towards the west end of the parish; another, about the middle of the south side of the parish, where the road to Duffus crosses the Lossie; and another, towards the east end of the parish, at Bishopmill, where the post-road to Lossiemouth crosses the Lossie. This last mentioned bridge was originally built of stone, but was swept away by the floods of August 1829; and the road trustees thereafter erected a handsome cast iron bridge.

Ecclesiastical State.—The church and manse were originally most pleasantly situated at the eastern extremity of the parish, in the vicinity of the Bishop's Palace; but in the year 1736, they were removed to Quarrywood, a more central, though much more bleak situation, nearly under the highest part of the north side of the hill. Both are at present in pretty good repair, and the manse has several times got additions and alterations. The church affords accommodation for about 400 persons, and all the sittings are free. It is about 3 miles distant from the extremities of the parish; but more than the half of the population being residents in Bishop-

mill, almost close to Elgin, and upwards of two miles from Quarrywood, they find it much more convenient to attend the churches in Elgin. In good weather, however, a good many from Bishopmill attend the parish church. For eight months past, a sermon has been preached monthly in Bishopmill, on Sabbath evening, in the school rooms, chiefly for the aged and infirm, some of whom are unable even to attend the churches in Elgin.—The glebe, including the garden, consists of about 6 acres, inclosed with stone dikes; and its annual value may be about L. 14. By a private agreement with the heritors, the present minister receives L. 8 yearly, during his incumbency, in lieu of a grass glebe. The amount of the stipend is 91 bolls of meal, 91 bolls of barley, and L. 3 of money. The 91 bolls of meal, deducting one-ninth part for difference of weight, are equivalent to cwt. 113.7499. The 91 bolls of barley, deducting one twenty-first part for difference of measure, are equivalent to quarters 66.2907.

There is no Dissenting or Seceding chapel in the parish; but about 36 persons, chiefly inhabitants of Bishopmill, are Dissenters, and 10 of them Episcopalians. There are no Roman Catholics in the parish. Divine service at the Established Church is generally well attended, and the average number of communicants is about 100.

There are three Sabbath evening schools in the parish, and an annual collection is made in the church for defraying the expense of them.

Education.—There are two schools in the parish, viz. the parochial school at Quarrywood, and an unendowed school in Bishopmill. The branches of instruction generally taught in each are, reading, writing, arithmetic, English grammar, book-keeping, and Latin. The parochial schoolmaster's salary is the maximum, viz. L. 34, 4s. The amount of the school fees is about L. 16, 8s. The schoolmaster has merely the legal accommodation. The general expense of education per annum for English reading is 6s., for reading and writing, 8s., for reading, writing, and arithmetic, 10s., and for the additional branches of English grammar and Latin, 12s. With very few exceptions, the people are alive to the benefits of education, and there are scarcely any individuals upwards of twelve years of age who cannot read and write. There are two female schools, one at Quarrywood, and one in Bishopmill. In these are taught reading, sewing, and knitting. They are justly considered valuable institutions.

Library.—There is one parochial library; it is stationed at Bishopmill.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The average number of persons receiving parochial aid is 28. The average sum allotted to each yearly is 18s.; the annual amount of church collections is L. 20; the annual amount of interest for money lent out from the poors' fund is nearly L. 11. There is an independent disposition among the poor, restraining them from seeking parochial relief, while they are healthy and able to work; but when old age or distress comes upon them, they do not consider it as degrading to apply for relief.

Alehouses.—There is no inn in the parish, and but four alehouses, two of which are toll-houses; and the fewness of these is, without doubt, much in favour of the morals of the people.

Fuel.—Some peats and turf are still used for fuel, as also a good deal of wood; but the principal fuel, and perhaps the cheapest is English coal, imported to Burghead and Lossiemouth, at an average price of about 1s. 10d. per barrel.

October 1835.

PARISH OF ALVES.

PRESBYTERY OF ELGIN, SYNOD OF MORAY.

THE REV. ALEXANDER GENTLE, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Extent, Boundaries.—THE boundary of this parish is irregular, especially towards the north. It includes about one mile of the coast of the Moray Frith, half way between Burghead and Findhorn; and for about a mile and a half inland, the parish is confined to a mile in breadth by Duffus on the east, and Kinloss on the west, along the sea coast; after which, it extends in breadth, east and west, about $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles. The south boundary is the ridge of the hill of Pluscarden, which is about $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the sea. The church and manse, situated on the north of the turnpike, are readily observed by passengers about midway between Elgin and Forres. On the south, Alves joins the landward part of the parish of Elgin; on the east, the parish of New Spynie; on the north, the parish of Duffus, the coast of the Moray Frith, and part

of the parish of Kinloss; on the west, it joins the parishes of Kinloss and Rafford.

Topographical Appearances.—The face of the country within the parish presents to the eye an agreeable variety of hill and dale, —in the spring and summer, covered with a fresh green, and in the autumn with yellow corn. Admirers of scenery would not call it beautiful, on account of the scanty appearance both of wood and water, and of the large tract of stunted heath, which appears in several parts, especially toward the south and west, close by rich fields of corn or pasture—causing the stranger to ask why the one portion has been so much cared for, and the other so much neglected? The answer is, that the property of the uncultivated parts (called common or *undivided liberty*) is claimed by the three heritors whose lands adjoin. Their respective claims have been under arbitration for upwards of forty years, but are not yet adjusted; in consequence of which, several thousands of acres lie waste, some parts of which are said to be fit for tillage, and the greater part well adapted to the growth of fir. The whole of the common has lately been measured, and, it is expected, will be divided ere long. At the east end of the parish, there is a small conical hill covered with wood, called the Knock of Alves. Like several other places in the neighbourhood, it has been rendered famous by the tradition of a *meeting of Macbeth and the Witches* on the spot. Several years ago, the proprietor, Alexander Forteath, Esq. of Newton, erected, on the top of the Knock, a handsome tower, called *York Tower*. It is a pleasing object amidst the sameness of the surrounding country; and from the top of it, may be obtained an extensive view of the Moray Frith.

Climate.—The air in this parish, as throughout the county of Moray, is dry and salubrious. During the cold season of the year, the prevailing winds are the N. and N. W.; and in the summer months the W. and S. W. It has been said that, on an average, the county of Moray has in the year about forty less of rainy days than the neighbouring counties. In a very dry season, the farmer feels the effects of this in the diminished quantity of straw. The soil, however, in this parish, which is under culture, is for the most part very fertile,—being a deep loam on a clayey bottom. The inhabitants are healthy and active, and instances of a vigorous old age are not rare.

Geology.—There are, in several places within the parish, large beds of freestone, some of which have been partly quarried. It

is found to be harder than usual, and not easily wrought, but very durable. There is, besides, one quarry for millstones at present worked,—from which the mills in the neighbourhood have for several years been in part supplied. In the low ground, in several places, there is still a considerable depth of peat moss. At one time, the inhabitants were abundantly supplied with fuel from the moss grounds. The best portions, however, are now drained, and brought into culture. The peat procured from what still remains uncultivated, emits, when burning, a very strong sulphureous vapour; and as no coal has been found in the county of Moray, the poor are at times but ill provided with fuel. They make great efforts of economy, that they may be able to purchase a small quantity of English coal,—of which several cargoes are imported yearly from Sunderland, and sold at Burchhead, and Findhorn betwixt 1s. 8d. to 2s. per barrel. Occasionally, the poor have been assisted in purchasing that comfort, in the winter months, by the donations of benevolent individuals connected with the neighbourhood.

Botany.—Ash and fir, and all kinds of flowering shrubs and common fruit-trees seem to thrive in the soil. The following plants, named according to Hooker's British Flora, have been found growing spontaneously in this parish and vicinity, viz. *Acinos vulgaris*, *Chrysosplenium*, *alternifolium*, *Cerastium arvense*, *Pedia dentata*, *Goodyera repens*, *Hippuris vulgaris*, *Linnaea borealis*, *Petasites vulgaris*, *Silene anglica*, *Solanum dulcamara*, *Teesdalia nudicaulis*, *Thlaspi arvense*, *Trientalis Europæa*.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Ancient State of Property.—It appears, from Shaw's History of the Province of Moray, that at the beginning of last century, the landed property of Alves was more subdivided than at present. There had been then four mansion-houses of resident proprietors, if not more. There are now only two. One farmer occupies as his dwelling-house, the old mansion-house, which had been occupied by the proprietor, Lord Lyon, and afterwards by the family of Brodie before the property was sold to the late Earl of Fife. Some years ago, there were to be seen the remains of three castles, of the smaller size, built as places of defence. The materials of two of them have been used in the building of farm steadings. A considerable part of the third is still standing, (called the castle of Asleisk), indicating in several parts that it had been formed to hold out against a strong body of assailants. The other two are reported to have been of similar construction: they were at first occu-

pied, it is said, by three brothers, named Dunbar, among whom the *discordia fratrum* seems to have prevailed to an unusual degree.

Present Land-owners.—The greater part of the land within the parish is still held by the descendants of the ancient families, whose rights were granted or confirmed by Royal authority. There are six land-owners, viz. the Earl of Moray; the Trustees of the late James Earl of Fife; Henry Joseph Brodie Dunn, Esq. married to the heir-ess of Milton Brodie; James Campbell Brodie, Esq. of Lethen and Coulmony; Major L. Cumming Bruce of Rose Isle and Kinnaird; and Alexander Forteath, Esq. of Newton. The proprietors of Milton Brodie and of Newton usually reside in the parish. None of the others have a residence in it. The good understanding, however, which has for the most part subsisted between landlord and tenant is evident from this circumstance, viz. that not a few of the farms have been rented by several generations of the same families; additions being made to the original farm at each new lease. There is one tenant now occupying a large farm on the Earl of Moray's estate, who is of the ninth generation on the same ground; there is another tenant on the same estate whose fathers had occupied the same farm upwards of 400 years. Among their discharges of rent was found one signed by *Thomas Randolph Earl of Moray*. This, as a curious relic, was given up to the Earl of Moray's factor; and a renewal of the lease was granted on the most indulgent terms. It has followed, that from the residence of the same families for so long a time, on the same spot, and from the consequent intermarriages which have taken place among them,—many of the present generation are more or less nearly related to one another. Hence, too, arises a strong attachment to the neighbourhood itself,—so that if a livelihood can be obtained in it, they have not hitherto been willing to remove.

Changes in the Mode of Possession.—The rent of farms has from time to time been greatly increased. The rental of the parish, about forty years ago, is said to have been not more than L. 3000. It is now about L. 6000. Among the changes that have taken place during that period, one is—the letting of land in large farms, instead of the small crofts into which it was formerly divided; another is—the paying of rent in money, and not in grain, wedders, fowls, &c. in which a great part of the rent of some farms used formerly to be paid. Both of these changes have no doubt operated towards improving the cultivation of the soil; more capital is employed, and every part of the work is better done.

Parochial Registers.—The parochial register of the kirk-session is preserved from the year 1649, down to the present time. The manuscript has been somewhat injured by damp and smoke. But the greater part can be read. The registers of marriages and baptisms is also preserved. In the session records, are found frequent intimations of days set apart for prayer, humiliation or thanksgiving.*

Antiquities.—The old military road can still be traced about a quarter of a mile south of the present turnpike. Not many years ago, there was, near the old road, a very large heap of stones, (called Moray's Cairn,) supposed to be commemorative of a battle. Not far from the same place were dug up some Lochaber and Danish axes. For many years, a superstitious fear prevented the neighbours from removing any of the stones from the heap; but at length, the workmen employed in making the new turnpike allowed present convenience to overcome all fears; and the stones of the cairn were thereafter employed in metalling the road. In the churchyard, was dug up several years since, a large stone coffin, such as might be supposed to have belonged to some personage of note. It was found in the ground which had formed the area of the old church.

Ecclesiastical History.—It appears, from Shaw's History of Moray, that the first Protestant minister in this parish was Mr Patrick Balfour, in the year 1567; from which time down to 1646, there had been appointed five ministers,—the last of whom, George Hannay, was deposed in 1646 for opposing the Covenant. In 1649, the kirk-session Records commence with the ministry of Mr William Campbell. The first pages of the Record are filled with the Solemn League and Covenant, written out very carefully, and subscribed by the minister and forty-two heritors and parishioners; to which signatures, are added in the handwriting of the clerk the names of above two hundred parishioners, who most likely were not able to write their own names. From that time to the present, there have been twelve ministers ordained. One of them, named Berroald Innes, was an Episcopal minister. He was ordained by the

* There is in the minute of kirk-session, dated June 22, 1746, the following notice: "The minister made intimation from the pulpit, that the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland had appointed Thursday next the 26th, to be observed as a day of thanksgiving, on account of our deliverance from and suppression of the late rebellion." Connected with the same period of Scottish history, there is a tradition among the older inhabitants, that the Duke of Cumberland on his way to Culloden rested one night at the old manse of the parish of Alves, of which Mr George Gordon was then parish minister, and that part of the Duke's army remained for some time quartered on the inhabitants.

Lord Bishop and Presbytery in the year 1676, and was ejected in 1690. He did not, however, leave the neighbourhood ; but occupied a house and a small piece of ground on the border of the parish, where he remained during the rest of his days.* In his room was appointed a Presbyterian minister, Mr John Gilchrist from Leith, of whom it is stated in the minutes of kirk-session, June 22, 1697, “ that he was, according to the sentence of the late General Assembly, transported from the parish of South Leith to this parish of Alves.” So that there appears to have been an interval of some years at that time (from 1690 to 1697,) before any one was appointed to the stated pastoral charge of the parish.

Until the year 1659 or 1660, Alves included a large portion of what now forms the adjoining parish of Kinloss ; and it is evident that, previous to this date, when Kinloss was erected into a parish, the pastoral duties of Alves must have been heavy on one minister and one session. It appears, however, from the old parish records, that in these days the elders were both numerous and assiduous in the performance of their duties. The minute of kirk-session, dated January 9, 1659, contains a resolution of the session to make a new election of elders for the *several districts of the parish*. These districts amounted to eleven, and elders are appointed to each of them. The whole list contains no less than *twenty-seven names*. As all the districts named are within the present bounds of the parish, it is likely that the new election of elders was made on account of the change which was then taking place as to Kinloss. It seems, also, to have been the usual practice of the session to nominate one of its members as ruling elder, to attend the meetings of synod. The exercise of church censure was extended much farther than in modern days. Besides other immoralities,—drunkenness, slander, brawling, theft, absence from church ordinances, profaning of the Lord’s day by strolling in the fields, or playing at foot-ball, undutiful conduct to parents, &c. appear from time to time to have been the occasion of administering warning, and even rebuke before the congregation. When, from any cause, there was no sermon on the Lord’s day, the congregation was nevertheless convened in the church to hear the scriptures read. On such occasions, the minute bears, “ no sermon

* Part of the wall of the choir of the old church is still standing, in which is fixed a slab of Scotch marble, bearing a well written Latin inscription, to the memory of Beroald Innes, from which it appears that, for personal character, he had been highly esteemed, though ejected on account of his adherence to Episcopacy. Some of the descendants of his family are still in the parish. One of them has in his possession a Bible which had belonged to his ancestor :—it was printed in 1610 in the old English character ; it has now been partly destroyed by damp.

this day, the people convened and heard the word read," "the collection for the poor," &c.

Not only are week days frequently mentioned as having been set apart for fasting or thanksgiving; but, likewise, special subjects that appeared to call for thanksgiving were often enjoined to be remembered on the Lord's day. From the middle of last century, the vigorous exercise of church censure seems to have been gradually relaxed,—so that for a considerable time back, no mention is made of any delinquent appearing before the congregation, but only before the kirk-session, to be admonished or rebuked. There has long prevailed in this neighbourhood a reverence for the Sabbath, and for the ordinances of religion.

III.—POPULATION.

While Alves included a large portion of Kinloss, the population must have greatly exceeded its present amount. Even after that time, the number of inhabitants within the present boundaries of the parish had been for several generations much greater than what it is now. This may be inferred from the following comparison of the registrations.

Old register for the year 1689,—marriages, 16; baptisms, 83.

Yearly average of the 20 years preceding 1835,—marriages, 5; baptisms, 20.

In like manner, the decrease of population appears from the returns made at different periods.

| | |
|---|------------|
| By the returns made to Dr Webster, the amount of population in 1755 was | 1691 |
| By former Statistical Account in | 1793, 1111 |
| By Government census in | 1811, 922 |
| Do. do. | 1821, 947 |
| Do. do. | 1831, 945 |

From the above, it appears that for some time, there had been a rapid decrease; after which the amount had become nearly stationary. The great alteration in the size of farms, already mentioned, is one of the chief causes of the decrease up to the year 1811. Many small crofts were thrown into one large farm; and the surplus population, no longer obtaining dwelling or employment in their native places, went to swell the numbers in the large towns.

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| By census of 1831. Inhabited houses, | 196 |
| Number of families, | 201 |
| chiefly employed in agriculture, | 110 |
| trade, manufactures, &c. | 44 |
| all other families, | 47 |

Language, Habits, &c. of the People.—The language generally spoken is the Scotch. A stranger is struck with the peculiar *vowel sounds*, given in a great many words, as *whēit* for wheat, *fēel* for fool, *pure* for poor, and *very* for very, &c. Gaelic is not spoken, except by strangers.

The habits of the people are marked by simplicity, frugality, and industry. They have many domestic comforts; and the changes of the seasons bring to them a regular change of occupation. Most of the cottars cultivate a small piece of ground in front of their dwellings, on which they raise a few common vegetables; many of them rear a pig, and, according to the quantity of ground they can manure, the neighbouring farmer allows them to plant potatoes for themselves on a part of his green crop field.

Instances of great age, accompanied with good health and vigour of the mental faculties, are common. The grandfather of one of the present parishioners died at the age of 106 years; an old woman died a few years ago aged 101.

During the last three years there have been 12 cases of illegitimate birth brought before the kirk-session. On this subject it is not unimportant to notice, 1st, that the delinquents are for the most part hired servants from various quarters of the country; 2d, that, according to an old usage, female servants for the summer half year are often hired at Whitsunday by the farmer at the public market in Elgin, *without any certificate of character*.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.—Between 80 and 100 acres within the parish are planted with wood, chiefly Scotch fir. It is thinned regularly; and of late years larch, and the common kinds of hard wood have been mixed with it. It is calculated that upwards of a sixth part of the surface of the parish lies waste in the state of common, formerly mentioned. The remainder of the surface being divided into about twenty-five large farms, is cultivated with great diligence.

Rent of Land.—The average rent of arable land per acre may be stated at from L. 1, 10s. to L. 2 per English acre. Grazing of a cow or ox per quarter of a year L. 2; do. of a sheep do. do. 1s.

Wages.—Wages of a farm-servant for six months, from L. 4 to L. 6, with victuals; out-door labourers have from 5s. to 6s. per week with victuals; or from 7s. to 8s. without victuals; masons may be engaged at 2s. per day; and wrights at 2s. per day, with victuals, or at 2s. 6d. without victuals; women servants are engaged for six months, at from L. 1, 15s. to L. 2, 5s.; women are engaged to work in the field at 3s. per week in winter, and 4s. in summer; in harvest time cutting and stacking per acre, at from 13s. to 15s.; cutting and building per acre, 8s. to 11s. Thraving is counted at 2½d. to 3½d. per thrave, (viz. two stooks.) Sometimes a man engages with a farmer for the whole harvest, at from L. 1, 15s. to L. 2, 5s. and

a woman engages for the whole harvest at from L. 1, 5s. to L. 1, 15s. Of late years, some having large farms prefer as farm-servants married men. To each, they give a house on the farm, rent free, for himself and family; wages L. 5 in the half-year, with 3 bolls of 9 stone (viz. 27 stone) of oatmeal, and one pint per day of sweet milk. It is found that, with this provision, they can live comfortably with their families; that there is less service required in the master's house, and less waste. During the greater part of the year, they have already breakfasted in their own houses, and have got the horses in the yoke by six o'clock in the morning, and labour till noon; then they rest for two or three hours, during which they dine, and attend to the cattle, after that, they continue at work till six or seven in the evening.

The only country manufacture is that of plaiding, which sells at 1s. 2d. or 1s. 6d. per imperial yard; and of coarse harn, which sells at 8d. or 10d.

Live-Stock.—The cattle are for the most part of a mixed breed, betwixt the Aberdeenshire and the Highland. Some farmers have of late introduced the polled breed from Buchan.

Husbandry.—Most of the tenants are bound by their leases to adopt the fifth or sixth shift rotation of crops. The farms generally are in a high state of cultivation, and some of them have, during the current lease, been greatly improved by being subdivided and enclosed by dry stone dikes, well built, at the joint expense of the proprietor and tenant. The advantage of such enclosures is acknowledged to be very great. Most of the large farms are provided with substantial dwelling houses, of two storeys. Some are slated, others are thatched. A steading of office houses is attached to each. In several instances, the buildings have been erected by the tenant after entering on his lease; such tenants are entitled to claim from the landlord at the expiry of their leases, the value of the buildings erected to the amount of one year's rent of the farm.

Both open and under draining has been executed to a considerable extent. The under draining is in most cases done with stones. It has been tried lately with fir trees of the smaller size, laid lengthwise in the bottom of the drain,—the brush not cut off; one tree being laid above another, the brush of the one being laid along the trunk of the other. The earth being thrown in and levelled, sufficient openings for the water are kept by the branches. In this way, a drain of great length is made in a short time when the trees happen to be near at hand.

Leases of farms usually extend to nineteen years. The great and unlooked for changes in the value of farm produce in the course of nineteen years may render it very difficult for the farmer, with all his industry, to fulfil his engagements. When this occurs, the good sense and good feeling of the landed proprietors have generally pointed out the remedy. They have come forward, and allowed a reduction of fifteen or twenty per cent. on the rent due. This never fails to produce the happiest effects by cherishing good will between landlord and tenant; while it encourages the families of a whole neighbourhood to persevere in that unremitting industry which, “provides *things honest* in the sight of all men.”

The chief improvements on the farms, of late years, are the extensive enclosures already noticed; and to these may be added the draining of two mosses consisting of upwards of 150 acres. Those farms which have not the benefit of enclosures nor of proper drains shew at once how much is lost by the want of them.

Produce.—The rental of the parish being about L. 6000, would, according to the usual computation, give about L. 15,000 as the average yearly value of the raw produce of all kinds raised within the parish.

It may be added that the valuation of the rental of most of the land is of an old date. It is stated in the last process of Augmentation to have been made in April 1629, and to have been then set down as 1563 bolls, 2 firlots of victual, and L. 164 Scots of money.

A great part of the grain raised within the parish is shipped at Burghead or Findhorn, and sold in the London market.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Market-towns, &c.—The nearest market-towns are Elgin on the east, and Forres on the west. The turnpike, lying in the most central parts of the parish, renders the communication with the towns very convenient. Besides the mail to Inverness, there are two stage-coaches.

There is no village within the parish. The largest group of houses lies along the high road south of the church. Among these, are two shops for the sale of groceries, meal, &c.; there are also here, a tailor, two shoemakers, and two wrights. The sale of spirits is allowed only in two houses within the parish. These are at a considerable distance from each other, and on different estates. As there are no feus, the proprietor or factor can exercise an efficient control over any improprieties of conduct on the part of the occupants of single houses or shops.

On one of the estates, a range of cottars' houses has been erect-

ed on the following conditions, viz. the cottar builds the house and encloses a small piece of ground for garden; he pays yearly a small rent of 10s., at the rate of L. 4 per acre, for the ground occupied. He is not allowed to sublet the house, nor to sell spirituous liquors without express permission from the factor; he may be called on, within twelve months' notice, to resign possession of house and ground, in which case the proprietor pays him for such meliorations of the house as may be ascertained by men mutually chosen. Such a power to eject is not likely to be exercised oppressively, while it preserves a very salutary control to the landlord who is interested in the moral condition of the neighbourhood. It is perhaps to be regretted that similar arrangements are not more frequent in country districts, and also that, when they are made, too little ground is allotted along with each house.

Ecclesiastical State.—The glebe contains about four acres of good soil, close by the church. The manse is newly built, about a hundred yards west from the church, on a different part of the glebe from the former manse. It is a very commodious and well-finished house, of three storeys, with garden and office-houses very conveniently situated. The stipend, as fixed by the last augmentation in the year 1822, is 14 chalders of victual, half meal, half barley, payable in money, according to the fiars of the county annually, with L. 8, 6s. 8d. Sterling for communion elements. Included in the stipend is the sum of 6s. 1d. yearly in lieu of the manse and croft of the *Chantor of Moray*, an office in the old cathedral at Elgin, which had been counted in former times as annexed to the parsonage of Alves. Taking the average of several years past, the stipend may be stated at L. 200.

The church was built in the year 1769, and, as was usual at that time in country churches, it is long and narrow—75 feet by 25—not the most desirable structure either for speaker or hearers. It is substantially built, and well seated; and having been built when the population of the parish was much greater than at present, it affords fully more accommodation than the law requires. This is owing entirely to the diminution of the number of parishioners, already noticed. There are sittings for about 590 persons. Each farmer has a certain number of seats, rent free, assigned to him by his landlord. These he occupies with his family, servants, and cottars. The sittings in the area of the church were fitted up from the kirk-session funds many years ago, and are let at from 6d. to 1s. 2d. each,—by which means about L. 3 are added yearly to the poors' fund. The church is conveniently situated, being not far from the centre

of the parish; and not distant much more than three miles from any of the habitations. The roads leading to it are for the most part very good; and during the greater part of the year, it is well attended.

The outward means of spiritual improvement to which the people have access are,—besides the opportunity of public worship on the Lord's day,—two Sabbath evening schools in different parts of the parish,—the yearly celebration of the Lord's supper in the month of July,—week days occasionally set apart for public worship,—annual public catechisings in twelve districts,—monthly prayer meetings in the church, commonly on the first Wednesday of the month,—two classes, one of young men, another of young women, about twenty in each class, during the winter months, at the manse in the evening, once a fortnight,—and visiting by the minister and elders in cases of sickness.

It cannot be affirmed that there are not instances of drunkenness and other immoralities; but these are comparatively few. Nor can it be denied that many shew little evidence of vital Christianity, who are yet punctual and even zealous in observing the outward forms. Still, it may be said that the Christian character is always the standard, and that the example of practical godliness exhibited by the few who come nearest to that standard, restrains some from evil, and incites others to a higher measure of what is good, than they would of themselves have sought. Daily worship is kept up in a considerable number of families, though not to the same extent as at former periods. The average yearly number of young communicants (that is communicants for the first time,) is 5. The communicants in all are about 110, of whom 38 are on the roll as male heads of families, according to the last General Assembly's Act on Calls.

During the last seven years, there have been contributed within the parish, partly for charities in the neighbourhood, and partly for the General Assembly's Schools and missionary objects, in whole about L. 112; making as the yearly average of such contributions about L. 16.

There are only four or five families of Dissenters in the parish; they are connected with the Dissenting congregations in Elgin. In one family, two of the members are Papists.

Education.—The school-house is close by the church, and consists of two flats, the under containing school-room, 28 feet by 14, and kitchen; the upper containing three small rooms and a closet. The accommodation is more than the act of Parliament requires;

but the house being built close to the churchyard, and the ground rising on the back wall to the height of eight or ten feet, cause a considerable dampness. The salary is the maximum, L. 34, 4s. 4½d., to which is added a share of the Dick bequest, (probably L. 25 or L. 30 per annum.) School fees and session clerk's fees, L. 20 ;—allowance for garden, L. 2, 2s. 9d.—Average number of scholars for several years past 50 ;—hours of teaching six ;—vacation time in winter, ten or twelve days ; in harvest about six weeks ;—branches taught, reading, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping. Some are taught English Grammar and geography ; occasionally a few are taught Latin, Greek, and the elements of mathematics. preparatory to their attendance at Aberdeen colleges. The Scriptures are read once a-day by the whole school, not as a lesson in reading, but as a means of acquiring the knowledge of the truth.

The heritors give a house and small salary to a female teacher, who gives instruction in sewing, knitting, &c. to about twenty girls. There is also a subscription school at the west end of the parish for the accommodation of several districts in this and adjoining parishes not conveniently situated for the attendance of young children at the parish schools. There are always at the Alves school seven boys as bursars,—their education being paid for out of the interest of money bequeathed by two individuals, and affording about L. 1, 10s. to each. Besides the school fees being paid, there is a small surplus for clothing, which is given to their parents for that purpose. The bursars are nominated by the kirk-session out of those families who seem most to require such aid.

The schoolmaster takes charge of a parish library, consisting of nearly 200 volumes. The readers pay 6d. per quarter. There is a juvenile library for the children, of about 80 volumes. There is also one of the itinerating libraries, of 50 volumes, lent at 1d. per volume, to be returned in two weeks. This last is in considerable demand among the farm-servants and work-people during the winter months ; and indeed that may be said to be the *reading time* with an agricultural population, their hands being at other seasons of the year so full of employment that little leisure time is left to most of them. Not a few of the farmers themselves, however, receive the newspapers regularly, sometimes three or four taking a share of an Edinburgh or London paper. They are generally intelligent and shrewd in all matters relating to agriculture, more from experience and observation than from reading. Books

of history, biography, and travels, are for the most part preferred. To some, books on Scripture subjects are more acceptable.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—There has never been in this parish an assessment for the poor. The average number on the roll is about 26, almost all above fifty years of age. It is said the number would be greater, were it not for the harvest-work, by which some gain an addition to their small means by thraving. A distribution of money is made to the poor by the minister and elders at the church on a week-day, three times a year. They receive in all from 15s. or L. 1, to L. 1, 10s. each yearly. The funds for this purpose are supplied chiefly from the contributions at church on the Sabbath, collected not at the door, but *in hand boxes carried round* by the elders before the congregation is dismissed. The average weekly collection is 10s. There is likewise the yearly interest of a small sum mortified for the poor. A poor person when admitted on the roll of paupers for the first time is required to sign an obligation to the kirk-session, giving them a preferable right to any money, furniture, &c. which the individual may be found possessed of at the time of his decease; and authorizing the kirk-treasurer to take thereof to the amount of what the pauper had received out of the poor funds. The effect of this regulation is to prevent any from seeking to be admitted on the roll, who, having some means of their own, or relatives able to assist them, are not proper objects of public charity. It is evident that the sum given out of the session funds cannot be sufficient for the yearly maintenance of any one. Even all the items which make up the yearly provision of several persons, must be acknowledged to make but a frugal provision: these are,

| | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|-----------|
| From the kirk-session yearly, say | - | - | - | L. 1 10 0 |
| Work in harvest for rent of house, | - | - | - | 0 10 0 |
| 2½ bolls of potatoes from their own planting on the farmer's green crop field, | - | - | - | 0 15 0 |
| Occasional supplies of oatmeal from the farmer, | - | - | - | 1 0 0 |
| Do. do. of fuel and other articles, | - | - | - | 0 15 0 |
| | | | | <hr/> |
| | | | | L. 4 10 0 |

This is the whole of the yearly provision of such poor persons as are unable to do out-work, except for a short time in the harvest. Formerly, spinning was the great source of maintenance for old women; and since that was done away nothing has come in its place for them.

The average yearly collections at the church for the poor amount to about L. 31. To this are added several small sums from mor-

tifications, churchyard dues, &c. making the receipts in all about L. 45 yearly ; out of which, besides the regular allowance to those on the roll, extra supplies are given in cases of sickness, funeral expenses are paid, &c. also the session-clerk, precentor, and church officer ; so that there is but a small sum reserved in hand ; and probably so much the better,—for it seems to be generally acknowledged that, wherever a large fund is accumulated, the claimants increase in number.

Gray's Hospital at Elgin, to which the poor of all the parishes within the county have access, on presenting the certificate of their parish minister, is of incalculable benefit ; and the lunatic asylum, lately attached to it, capable of receiving ten patients at a time, is likely to be found a valuable addition for the relief of the parishes of this county.

October 1835.

PARISH OF BELLIE.

PRESBYTERY OF STRATHBOGIE, SYNOD OF MORAY.

THE REV. DAVID DEWAR, MINISTER. *

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—The name has been traced by some to the Gaelic *Bellaidth*, signifying *broom* ; and by others to *Beul-aith*, signifying *the mouth of the ford*.

Boundaries, Extent, &c.—The parish is of an oblong quadrangular figure, but narrower at the northern than at the opposite extreme. Its length, from north to south varies from 5 to 6 miles. Its greatest breadth is 4 miles ; its mean breadth 3 ; and its superficial contents in square miles, very nearly 19. The Spey is the boundary on the west ; the Moray Frith on the north ; Rathven on the east ; Keith and Boharm on the south.

Meteorology.—The following meteorological table, embracing a period of ten successive years, is extracted from a register carefully kept by an eminent naturalist, who long resided at Gordon Castle.

* Drawn up by the late incumbent of the parish, the Rev. William Rannie.

| | 8 A.M. aver. for the year of the monthly mean height of | | 3 P.M. aver. for the year of monthly mean height of | Average depth of rain for the year. | Average number of Days. | | | | |
|-------|---|---------|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------|------------|------------|----------|
| | Barom. | Thermo. | Therm. | In 100 | Rain or Snow. | Fair. | West Wind. | East Wind. | No Wind. |
| 1811, | 29.74 | 45.62 | 50.27 | 30.34 | 188 | 177 | 253 | 109 | 3 |
| 1812, | 29.83 | 43.54 | 47.52 | 31.77 | 192 | 174 | 298 | 66 | 2 |
| 1813, | 29.82 | 45.40 | 49.81 | 23.52 | 166 | 199 | 298 | 63 | 4 |
| 1814, | 29.81 | 44.02 | 48.72 | 26.11 | 169 | 196 | 293 | 70 | 2 |
| 1815, | 29.73 | 45.06 | 49.77 | 24.78 | 191 | 194 | 293 | 69 | 3 |
| 1816, | 29.70 | 42.89 | 47.03 | 25.87 | 178 | 188 | 272 | 91 | 3 |
| 1817, | 29.76 | 44.09 | 48.99 | 29.57 | 191 | 174 | 268 | 96 | 1 |
| 1818, | 29.76 | 46.14 | 50.85 | 20.45 | 171 | 194 | 264 | 99 | 2 |
| 1819, | 29.74 | 45.22 | 49.75 | 29.68 | 186 | 179 | 267 | 97 | 1 |
| 1820, | 29.90 | 44.86 | 49.28 | 28.66 | 167 | 199 | 260 | 104 | 2 |

Annual average of winds for the last five years of the foregoing table; viz. from 1816 to 1820 inclusive.

| | | | |
|--------------|---|----------|------------------------------|
| N. and N. E. | - | 59 days. | |
| E. and S. E. | - | 37 | |
| S. and S. W. | - | 172 | Down the valley of the Spey. |
| W. and N. W. | - | 96 | |
| No wind, | - | 3 | |

367 days.

On the 27th June 1826, the thermometer of Fahrenheit in the shade at one o'clock P. M. stood at 87°, and on the 9th of February 1816, at eight o'clock P. M. it fell to 8°.

Hydrography.—This parish is abundantly supplied with water. The numerous perennial springs are, in general, exuberant, beautifully clear, and admirably fitted for domestic purposes. Some powerful chalybeates are seen at intervals depositing a strong ferruginous residuum, and tempt the invalid to try their healing virtues, but hitherto without any remarkable effect. Two of our springs have been honoured with the names of patron saints. The Mary well, which rises near the centre of the parish, and St John's well, in one of the upper districts, were both frequented by superstitious votaries, in less enlightened times.

There are several lochs or natural collections of water among our woods, the resort of wild-duck and other aquatic fowl; and one highly ornamental artificial lake, fed by several copious springs, with an island in the centre, and fringed with a circuit of stately trees, constitutes one of the most picturesque beauties which adorn the delightful scenery in the vicinity of Gordon Castle.

Geology and Mineralogy.—The most remarkable feature in the mineralogy of this parish, is what is termed the "red rock," con-

sisting of a mixture of dark-coloured argillaceous and siliceous earths. It is imbedded in loose and decomposed strata of the same constituent elements, which form a very superior binding for roads and garden-walks, for which purposes it is in great request. Huge masses of this red sandstone are occasionally found, and broken down for various architectural uses. Some portions of the "rock" are very hard when first dug from the quarry, but it is liable to be corroded, and to moulder away when long exposed to the weather, and on that account, when employed in the outer courses of buildings, it is usually overcast with a thick coating of lime. The breccia, or pudding-stone, is frequently found imbedded in this rock; and on the beach of the river, some beautiful pebbles and fragments of asbestos have been occasionally picked up, which have probably been washed from the mountains by heavy floods. Some micaceous schistus and stalactitical accretions also reward the search of the collector.

Soil.—The soil of the lower district of the parish is chiefly light and sandy, and, although interspersed with some patches of barren gravel, is productive on the whole in moist seasons. Where the stillness of the waters, by which it was evidently at one period overflowed, allowed the alluvial deposit to become deep and extensive, it consists of a rich and fertile loam. The under stratum is wholly of gravel and stones, formerly the bed of the river or the sea. The coast along its whole extent, and to the breadth of about a-quarter of a mile, is entirely sterile. The lands near the eastern boundary are also sandy and light. The south-eastern and highest part of the parish is chiefly barren uncultivated moor, swelling into hills of various forms, of which the eastern range consists, in general, of the "*schistus caruleus*," or blue slate, whilst that on the south and west is chiefly composed of a red and very tenacious clay, intermixed with gravel and small stones. Among these elevated grounds, there are a few farms of clayey loam, with a mixture of moss, which would be highly productive, were it not that the climate here is unfavourable, and the harvest usually late.

Zoology.—Some rare and beautiful birds of passage have been occasionally recognized in our fields and ponds; and a list of the most noted of these migratory strangers that were intercepted in their flight, may not be unacceptable to the scientific reader. They were shot by the Duke of Gordon or some of his Grace's visitors, in the neighbourhood of Gordon Castle.

| | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <i>Colymbus grylle</i> | <i>Anas clangula</i> | <i>Turdus viscivorus</i> |
| <i>Ampelis garrulus</i> | <i>Lanius excubitor</i> | <i>Scelopax calidris</i> |
| <i>Pelecanus carbo</i> | <i>Sterna hirundo</i> | <i>Turdus iliacus</i> |
| <i>Certhia familiaris</i> | <i>Scelopax glottis</i> | <i>Charadrius Hiaticula</i> |
| <i>Loxia curvirostra</i> | <i>Alcedo Ispida</i> | <i>Anas glacialis</i> |
| <i>Tringa alpina</i> | <i>Colymbus arcticus</i> | — <i>crecea</i> |
| <i>Motacilla regulus</i> | <i>Alca alle</i> | <i>Rallus aquaticus</i> |
| <i>Mergus merganser</i> | <i>Mergus serrator</i> | <i>Sturnus cinclus.</i> |

Botany.—The *Listera* or tway-blade, the *Goodyera repens* and *Linnaea borealis* may be reckoned the rarest of our indigenous plants. The *Trientalis Europæa* (or chickweed winter-green,) also unfolds its beautiful stars in our copses and glens, mingling with the flowers of the *Oxalis acetosella* or wood sorrel; and the *Asperula odorata* or sweet woodroof, is found in great abundance, growing wild in a small glen on the south-eastern border of the parish. Our prevailing forest trees are the Scotch fir, with a few thriving plantations of larches and birch. Some majestic limes, horse-chestnuts, and planes, with stately rows of beeches and elms, and a great variety of ornamental trees, adorn the extensive lawns and scenery at Gordon Castle. And one delightful spot has long been known by the name of the “Holly Bank,” from the superior growth and profusion of this beautiful evergreen, with which it is chiefly covered.

A magnificent lime-tree on the south lawn of the Castle usually attracts the admiration of strangers. It has the appearance of three stems incorporated into one, and its pensile branches, which are enclosed with a tasteful rustic pallisade, cover a space of the immense circumference of 300 feet.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Antiquities.—To the north of Gordon Castle, are the remains of a military station, which early tradition assigned to the Danes, but which in later times has long been known by the appellation of the “Roman camp.” Those who ascribe it to the Danes suppose it to have been connected with a battle which they fought with the Scots in the neighbourhood of Cul-len; but, as the Roman Eagles were once certainly displayed upon the banks of the ancient Tuessis or Spey, it is generally supposed that this encampment was formed by a detachment of Agricola’s troops, when he traversed the coasts of our island, and may have been intended to cover the ford of the river, which at that period probably ran along the base of the bank where the station is placed. Its quadrangular form, with its rampart and ports, seem also to indicate, with some degree of certainty, that it

belonged to the conquerors of the world. Some years ago, the fosse was cleared by order of the proprietor, but no relics of antiquity were found, with the exception of a few amulets or beads of party-coloured stone. It is now, in some places, overrun with whins and broom, and in other parts has been recently planted with clumps of trees and shrubs, to serve as a peaceful covert for the brood of pheasants and other game. A little to the north of this encampment, there was lately to be seen a tumulus or mound known by the name of the "Green Cairn;" supposed to be the tomb of some chieftain of ancient renown. It consisted of a belt of earth of the richest mould, interposed between a casement of pebbles, and was encompassed at the base with two ranges of stones in a vertical position.

A little to the east of this spot, on one of the banks of what is termed the "dry burn," there are the remains of a Druidical temple.

Another antiquity deserving notice, is a small mound of earth, a little to the north of the fore-mentioned temple, apparently artificial, called the "Court Hillock," which in former times was probably a seat of justice. The ancient Cross of Fochabers may also be mentioned, now standing within the Duke of Richmond's park.

New Buildings.—By far the most magnificent of these is Gordon Castle, the princely seat of the distinguished family of Richmond. This superb and elegant structure, extending from east to west the enormous length of nearly 570 feet, is situated towards the south-western angle of the lowest of the three extensive semi-circular "flats" into which the parish is divided. It is universally allowed to be one of the noblest specimens of architectural magnificence to be found in Britain, and is the grand object of attraction to all travellers who visit this quarter of the island. On the 11th of July 1827, the roof and interior of the eastern wing were totally destroyed by an accidental fire, but the destroyed parts have since been restored in a suitable magnificence. The necessary brevity of this article prohibits a detailed account of many objects of interest connected with this magnificent mansion.

A square of offices was completed, some years ago, at the castle farm-yard, presenting a range of buildings which, for amplitude, utility, and elegance, are certainly unrivalled by any in the north.

A neat Episcopal chapel has just been erected by the Duchess of Gordon, with Gothic windows and two ornamental spires, on the north side of the village of Fochabers, opposite the parish

church, and exactly within the southern verge of the castle grounds. It consists of two storeys, of which the place of worship constitutes the highest, that upon the ground being occupied as an infant school, comprehending the necessary apartments for the accommodation of the teacher.

On the glebe, an excellent manse, with offices, was lately built on a liberal scale. It is pleasingly situated on a rising-ground near the eastern bank of the Spey, commanding an extensive view of the valley of the river and surrounding country.

III.—POPULATION.

The number of residents in the village of Fochabers, according to the last return, was 1086. In the landward districts, there were 1346.

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|------|
| Amount of population in 1821, | . | 2235 |
| 1831, | . | 2432 |
| 1841, | . | 2433 |

The whole parish, with the exception of the domains surrounding the castle, was in former times partitioned out into small estates or landships, which were held in feu of the Gordon family. Dal-lachy was divided into several parts. The two Auchinreaths were separate estates; Auchinhalrig was a wadsett, and Tynet, Tulloch, and Braes had each their respective lairds.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.—The agricultural state of the parish will be ascertained by the following statement, which, it is believed, is pretty accurate :

| | Imperial acres. |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Arable, | 3658 |
| Pasture, | 643 |
| Wood, | 2852 |
| Moor, | 4832 |
| Water, | 13 |
| Turnpike roads, . . . | 50 |
| Total, | <hr/> 12048 |

Husbandry, &c.—Since the powerful impulse imparted by the high prices of grain during the late war, agriculture has been carried on with increasing spirit. A large portion of the lower part of the parish is parcelled out into small farms, consisting often of detached acres, of which the rents are paid by wages earned at the Spey fishing. In the upper districts, the farms are larger, but there are few of any considerable extent. The leases are in general for nineteen years, and the average rent of arable land is 18s. per imperial acre. The most prevailing mode of cultivation is the rotation of six, and in some instances of five courses. Bar-

ley was wont to be the staple crop, but since the suppression of illicit distillation in the Highlands, which lessens the demand for that produce, wheat is very generally cultivated, yielding from seven to nine returns. Oats are still in favour, but not so extensively sown as formerly. Potatoes and turnips form on every farm a large proportion of the crop. The fields are well dressed, and, in addition to the manure of the stable and farm-yard, and sea-weed or "ware" (which were formerly used,) lime is now very generally adopted, both as a compost and spread in an unmixed state upon the field. Considerable quantities of herring soil from the fishing station at Port-Gordon, are now also purchased by the farmer, and made into compost both for turnip and wheat. Bone manure has likewise been tried, in some instances, with considerable success.

Live-Stock.—The black-cattle amount to about 690; horses to 166; and sheep to 1370.

Produce.—The average annual gross amount of raw produce raised in the parish may be reckoned as follows, upon a moderate calculation, viz.

| | | | |
|--|-----------|---|---|
| Produce of grain of every description, | L. 7659 | 0 | 0 |
| potato, turnip, and green crop, | 992 | 0 | 0 |
| hay, | 1875 | 0 | 0 |
| On grazing cattle and pasturing sheep during the season, | 1032 | 0 | 0 |
| Annual thinning of wood, | 1000 | 0 | 0 |
| Average produce of the Spey fishing, | 16,400 | 0 | 0 |
| Miscellaneous produce, | 150 | 0 | 0 |
| Total, | L. 29,108 | 0 | 0 |

Salmon-Fishing.—The salmon-fishing of the Spey has long been famous. It extends from the mouth of the river about nine or ten miles, and yields a revenue to the Duke of Richmond of L. 8200 Sterling a year. By a recent enactment of the Legislature, the fishing begins on the 1st of February, and ends on the 14th September. Salmon trout appear in the end of March, and grilse about the beginning of June. A spacious mansion for the gentlemen holding the lease, with an extensive court and range of buildings commodiously fitted for every purpose connected with the fishings, occupies a prominent station on the beach near the mouth of the river. The greater part of the fish is sent to London, covered with ice, in boxes peculiarly constructed for the purpose. Eight smacks are constantly employed in this traffic during the season, each at the expense of L. 40 a month. The demand in the English market is usually so great, that the price of salmon is always high on the river side, being usually sold at 1s. 6d. per lb. to the 1st of June, when it falls during the re-

mainder of the season to 1s. Grilse of five lb. and under are sold at 7d.; and if of a greater weight at 8d. per lb. Trout are 9d. to the 1st of June, and after that are 5d. per lb. The fishing is with nets and small boats, each with seven men and a "kenner," who is princeps of the band. Some alterations are occasionally introduced in the management of this extensive concern; and the whole fishing, by the present regulation, is to be conducted in future by twelve bands, each consisting of eight men.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Markets, &c.—Six markets, in the course of the year, for cattle and horses, but chiefly the former, are held at Fochabers, our principal village. The markets are held on the first Wednesday of January, the fourth of March, and May; the second Wednesday of August; and the fourth of October and December. The village of Fochabers is placed on a rising ground where a small rivulet unites with the Spey. It is a burgh of barony, and is built on a neat and regular plan, with a large square in the centre, planted on each side with trees and flowering shrubs.

Ecclesiastical State.—By far the greater part of the people are of the Established Church. There are only a few families of the Episcopal persuasion. The Roman Catholics, who are more numerous, have of late years erected a chapel in the village of Fochabers. They have another place of worship about four miles distant, on the eastern border of the parish, where their clergyman resides. He is under the control of a bishop, who has lately built a very excellent mansion for himself in the neighbouring parish of Rathven.

The Enzie mission has just been erected into a parish, *quoad sacra*; and the small village of Auchinhalrig, and a large thinly peopled district of the Braes of Enzie have been detached from the parish of Bellie and annexed to it.

The stipend of Bellie is made up, by an annual grant from the Exchequer, to the minimum allowance of L. 150 a year. The glebe consists of about twelve acres. The Duke of Richmond is patron of the parish.

Education, &c.—There are no fewer than fourteen schools in the parish; viz. one parochial, three partly supported by the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge; one infant school established by the Duchess of Gordon; three that are only partially endowed; two by teachers on their own adventure; three Sabbath-schools, and one winter evening-school. The parish

schoolmaster has all the legal accommodations, with maximum salary of L. 34, 4s. 4½d. a year. The school fees amount to nearly L. 20. He has also his accustomed fees as session-clerk, and an annual allowance from the Dick bequest.

Literature, &c.—We have one Subscription Library in Fochabers, and two Itinerating Libraries, with 50 approved works in each, presented to the parish by the late Duke and the Duchess of Gordon, all affording to numerous readers much solid instruction and useful entertainment. Under the same distinguished patronage, a society was formed for disseminating the Scriptures, and co-operating with kindred institutions, under the denomination of the “Fochaber Association for Religious purposes.”

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The principal funds for the maintenance of the poor are from contributions of individuals, the interest of a little money, and the usual collections in the parish church. They average about L. 70 a-year. There are upwards of 50 paupers upon the roll; but private liberality prevents any thing like absolute destitution. The collections in church average about L. 13 a-quarter. There are a considerable number of families who enjoy the privilege of what is called the “Bede Meal,” an ancient provision of the Gordon family, chiefly for the support of old men. Private alms are liberally given, and the people in general are charitably disposed.

January 1842.

PARISH OF DUTHIL.*

PRESBYTERY OF ABERNETHY, SYNOD OF MORAY.

THE REV. WILLIAM GRANT, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—THE ancient name of the parish was *Gleann a cheathernich*—the Heroes’ Glen—probably derived from the extensive power possessed by its ancient proprietors, and from the many brave feats performed by them in the defence of their widely scattered domains from the encroachments of neighbouring chieftains, as well as from their success in arresting the predatory incursions

* Drawn up by Mr W. Dunbar, Parochial Schoolmaster of Duthil.

of the Lochaber reivers to Moray land. Its modern name is evidently derived from the Gaelic *Tuathil*, north, in opposition to *Deishal*, south, the name of a considerable stripe of land in the southern district of the parish.

Extent and Boundaries.—The parish may be about 16 miles long by 13 miles broad. It is bounded on the north and north-east by the parishes of Ardcloch and Cawdor; north-west, by the united parishes of Moy and Delarossie; south-west, by Alvie; east, by Inverallan; and on the south, by the Spey, which divides it from the united parishes of Abernethy and Kincardine. Its figure is nearly that of an oblong square.

Topographical Appearance, &c.—The appearance of the parish is hilly. Along the whole of the north side, there runs a continued range of hill, commencing at the north-eastern extremity, and running westward in a direct line, till it terminates in the Monadh-lia, an extensive range common to the districts of Badenoch, Strathdearn, and Stratherrick. The only interruption to the continuity of this range, is the narrow pass or ravine of Slocmuic, through which the great highland road between Inverness and Perth passes. The only natural production peculiar to this range, as well as to many smaller hills projecting from it, is heather, with a sprinkling of small verdant patches at considerable distance from one another, which relieves the eye in some measure from the sombre monotony of the general landscape. Parallel to this range there is another in the south side of the parish, much lower than the range already mentioned, but equally barren in natural productions. This range commences eastward in Craig Ghartin, and expands in breadth till it terminates in Craigelachie, the slogan hill of the Grants, which divides Strathspey from Badenoch, and the county of Moray from Inverness, in that direction. Between these two parallel ranges, is the narrow valley of the Dulnan, bisected by the stream from which the valley derives its name. Between the southern range and the Spey, is a narrow stripe of land, extending the whole length of the parish.

Soil.—The soil is of two kinds. That on the banks of the Dulnan and Spey is chiefly alluvial, with a deep clay subsoil. In the more elevated situations, its general characteristic is thin and gravelly, with a considerable intermixture of stones. In favourable seasons, the haugh grounds yield heavy crops of oats; and since the year 1827 till 1834, (both included), the higher grounds have, under the joint influence of favourable seasons, and an im-

proved system of husbandry, yielded excellent crops of oats, bear, barley, turnips, and potatoes.

Climate.—The cold season may be said to commence, in general, early in November, and to end in May; yet, notwithstanding the long continuance of the cold season, the climate is the reverse of unhealthy. The prevailing diseases are rheumatism and scrofula,—the former proceeding in some measure from the people's inattention to add to their summer dress, when the winter colds set in. The latter may be ascribed to the low innutritious food on which many of the poorer inhabitants were, of necessity, in years of scarcity obliged to subsist. In the summers of 1808, 1816, and 1817, many families subsisted for several successive weeks on the tops of nettles, mugwort, turnip thinnings, and milk, without any corn food; and such as subsisted on this miserable substitute for food, are labouring under the latter disease.

Fissures.—About four miles north of the parish church, there is a rocky hill, projecting in front of the main range, called *Craig na' Iolar*, the eagle's eyrie, or crag. In this hill there are several fissures. One of them, near the west end, is from the top to the bottom of the hill. Its appearance is as if it were cut with a sharp weapon.*

Hydrography.—If we except three or four small lakes of a few furlongs in circumference, there is little in this department deserving of notice. Loch Bhruach, situated on the summit of the northern range of hills, abounds with very fine trout, resembling in colour the mossy bottom of the loch in which they live. In two of the other lochs, there are some pike; and in one of these, viz. the loch of Tullochgriban, some water snakes have been recently seen.

The Dulnan is the only river properly belonging to the parish. Its source is in the Badenoch hills. It flows from west to east till

* The tradition respecting its formation is sufficiently wild. As the formation of this natural phenomenon could not be otherwise accounted for by the limited understanding of the inhabitants, they ascribe it to the prowess of the Fingalian hero, who, on a certain day, had left his residence in the lowlands of Moray, and had gone to the forests of Glenmore and Benavon, for the double purpose of enjoying the amusement of the chase, and of replenishing his larder. Having that day, by some fatality, neglected to propitiate the favour of Cailleach a ghlinne mhòr, (an ill-natured spirit in the unamiable shape of an old withered beldame, who lorded with potent sway over man and beast that came within the boundaries of her sylvan domains), though tantalized with the sight of more game on that day than he had ever seen on any former visit, he had the mortification to catch none. Returning homeward in the evening, weary in body, and his mind chafed with disappointment, he was cutting figures in the air with his sword, till at last, in a fit of frenzy, he struck the end of the hill with his sword, by which he made the fissure alluded to. Hence the fissure is called “*beum a chlaidheamh*”—the sword's cleft.

it falls into the Spey at Belentomb of Inverallan. Though in general but a small stream, it frequently happens that, when swollen with heavy rains, or the melting of the snow on the adjacent hills, it does considerable damage to the corn and grass fields near its banks.

It is evident, that the whole surface of this country, at some remote period, had been covered with a dense forest. In cutting peats, or in digging for the roots of fir trees in the deep mosses, it is no unusual thing to meet with two or three roots piled one above another, as if, phoenix-like, the one grew out of the ashes of its predecessors. It is equally evident, from the many remains of wolf-traps that are to be met with in the different passes throughout the hills, that wolves had been at one time numerous. So daring were they, when impelled by hunger, that there are instances on record, of their having left their natives haunts, to levy *black-mail* from among the live-stock of the inhabitants.

A short time previous to their extirpation from this district, a woman that resided on the farm of Lochanhully (about a mile to the westward of the church), and had been returning from a neighbour's house with a gridiron or girdle in her hand, was met by a huge animal of this kind in a narrow lane near her own house. To return would have been inevitable destruction, and to proceed, her ferocious enemy signified, by his growling accents, that she dare not. They thus, for a few moments, stood gazing at one another, when the animal sprung upon its prey; but, as he was in the act of seizing her, she, by a well-directed stroke of the edge of the gridiron, cleft his head in two, and laid him lifeless at her feet. In commemoration of this feat, the lane is called *Clais a Mhadidh*—the cur's hollow or lane.

About the beginning of the last century, the forest of Duthil or Dulnanside was destroyed by fire. The few wolves that escaped the dreadful conflagration, found a miserable shelter among a small clump of trees that by some means escaped the general conflagration. In this last covert, they were not long permitted to remain unmolested. The people rose *en masse* and destroyed them, with the exception of an overgrown animal that escaped the general carnage, by fleeing across the hills to the eastern part of the parish of Moy. It had not been long in that district, when the inhabitants had a fearful warning of its being among them, by its killing a woman and her infant child. As soon as the laird of Mackintosh heard of this melancholy event, he

summoned his vassals to attend on a certain day on the banks of the Findhorn, for the purpose of destroying this formidable enemy. Their intentions were, however, anticipated by a daring fellow, that lived in the eastern extremity of the parish, who, as he was on his way to join the rest of his clansmen, was met by the very animal in question, in an exceedingly narrow path in the face of a rock, called Creig a chrochdan, and overhanging the river. As it was impossible for either party to recede, they boldly advanced, each bent upon his opponent's destruction; when the man, by a well-directed stroke of his club, brought his foe to the ground. With his dirk he cut off the animal's head, and carried it as a trophy of his victory to the place of meeting. On his arrival, the laird reproached him for his tardiness; when the man with affected contempt replied, that he believed he came sufficiently soon for all that was to do. As the laird was about to reproach him in somewhat more bitter terms, he drew the wolf's bleeding head from under his plaid, and threw it at his chieftain's feet. Thus perished the last of the native inhabitants of the forest of Glenchearnich.—The other animals are such as are peculiar to the neighbouring districts, viz. deer, roe, hares, rabbits, foxes, badgers, otters, wild-cats, and weasels. The principal of our reptile tribe are the snake and lizards. The black snail is peculiar to a certain district of the parish. Toads are entire strangers.*

Salmon, river-trout, and eels are the only fish in the Dulnan. The former come up to spawn in the months of October and November; and such as escape the poacher's leister return to the sea, by the end of the last-mentioned month.

Insects.—In the beginning of July 1815, during several days of intense heat, all the birch in the parish was completely stripped of its foliage, by a large blackish-coloured species of caterpillar. During these few days, the thermometer was seldom under 90° in the shade.

Birds.—The feathered game consists of grouse, partridges, plovers, snipe, lapwings, wild-ducks, and some ptarmigan. Of late years, black game has been very abundant, but, as a natural consequence, as the latter multiplied, the former have become less plentiful.

Forests.—In the upper part of the northern district of the parish, there is an extensive forest of natural Scotch fir. For the manufacturing of the timber, there are two saw-mills of two saws each,

* Since the above was written, rats have become very numerous.

driven by the waters of the Dulnan. About thirty years ago, an extensive tract of barren moor had been planted by the late Sir James Grant along the northern banks of the Spey, which is in a very thriving state. The district is well supplied with natural birch; scattered partly in clumps through the forest, and partly detached, by which the landscape is greatly enlivened, and the eye relieved from dwelling continually upon a scenery composed, without this latter addition, of lugubrious heath-covered hills, and cypress-coloured forests. To the fir, birch, and alder, the climate appears very congenial.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Tradition ascribes the possession not only of this parish, but of almost all the lands adjoining the Spey between Inverlochy and Fochabers to the Cummings, whose principal residence was in this parish. Be this as it may, it is evident they were in possession of the greater part of the said district, many years before 1280; as appears by a charter granted in that year by Gilbert, the third lord of that name, or, as he is called in the charter, *tertius Dominus de Glencherny*, Knight, with consent of Matilda, his spouse, Gilbert, his eldest son, of the lands of Gerbothy, with pertinents for homage and service. This charter is granted on the feast of the Purification of the Holy Virgin at Glencherny; the *reddenda* being “*unum per albarum Cyrothicarum, fortasse Cherothicarum.*” These lands of Gerbothy are situated near the banks of the Fiddich, parish of Boharm. By another charter of Gilbert de Glencherny, he gives to Duncan of Ferindrawth in *libero maritagio* with Margery his daughter, and their heirs, the eastern half of the Davoch of Conynges, “*per suas rectas divisas in tenemente de Abernethyn.*” Among other witnesses to this deed are found the names of Archibald and Henry, Bishops of Moray and Aberdeen. Though the deed bears no date, yet, as Archibald was Bishop of Moray from 1253 to 1298, and Henry, of Aberdeen, from 1281 to 1298, between the first and last year of Henry the charter must have been granted. From various other charters still extant, it appears that, from the last-mentioned period, the overgrown power of the Lords of Glenchernich was fast declining, as they disposed of davoch after davoch of their property, for homage which in many cases was but reluctantly paid them, and for services which were but imperfectly performed. Gilbert, the last of the Lords of Glenchernich, better known by his soubriquet of Gibbon Mòr, had the mortification, on succeeding to the property, of find-

ing his paternal acres in the possession of others, with the exception of Glenchernich and Belindalloch. With these his power seemed also to vanish. For the purpose of propping his falling greatness, and of checking the growing power of the Grants, (between whom and the Cummings there had been a hostile rivalry for many generations,) he had recourse to a no less singular than ludicrous expedient. At Gibbon's door, there stood a large stone cistern for keeping water for the fowls. When any applied for permission to join Gibbon's standard, if the applicant's appearance indicated, that he would be an acquisition to the clan, he was seized by the heels, and with ludicrous solemnity, plunged three times head foremost into this dirty font. After this immersion, he was not only entitled to bear the name of Cumming, but enjoyed all the privileges peculiar to the clan. Hence their descendants are called "Cuiminich clach na'n ceare,"—the Cummings of the hen trough. Independent of this ludicrous expedient, to which the proud chieftain resorted, he had the mortification to see his own power fast declining, and his rival's increasing in an inverse ratio, when his only daughter and heiress caused a cessation of hostilities, by giving her hand to the rival chieftain, Sir John Grant of Freuchy, naturally hoping that, at no distant period, her good-natured father would withhold from her neither his blessing nor his acres.

By this act of Gibbon's daughter, the feuds between the rival clans subsided so completely, that Gibbon Mòr, in the year 1364, ceded his lordship of Glenchernich, not to his son-in-law, Sir John, but to his grandson, Sir Duncan Grant of Freuchy. This transfer had been subsequently confirmed by a charter from King David, dated the same year, — and, by an instrument of sasine proceeding on a precept from King James' chancery, for infefting John Grant de Freuchy (son of Sir Duncan) in the lands of Glenchernich and Belindalloch, with the mills, &c. The dispensing clause makes "*locum de Mulquharde, principale messuagium dictarum terrarum,*" and accordingly the infeftment was taken there the 8th April 1499. Since that period, the parish has been the undisputed property of the chief of the Grants.

Considering the isolated situation of the parish, and the deadly feuds and bloody broils in which the inhabitants were too frequently engaged in days of yore, it will excite no surprise that its annals record but few, if any, men who became eminent in the arts and sciences peculiar to social and peaceful life. But if we might recur to those days of misrule, when "might overcame right,"

we could mention many, from the recital of whose reckless deeds in the shedding of human blood, we should recoil with horror.

From among many, we shall select John Macandrew of Delnahartnich, who, on account of his diminutive size, obtained the cognomen of Ian beag Macandra, little John Macandrew. At the period in question, the laird or tacksman of Achaluachrach, previous to his union with a young maiden of his own country, made a predatory incursion into the lowlands, from whence he carried away all the best cattle belonging to Rose of Kilravock, in Nairnshire. He reached in safety with his booty as far as the Crò-clach, in the braes of Strathdearn, where he rested for the night. While the hungry cattle fed with eagerness upon the rich pasture of this celebrated glen, the freebooters fared no less sumptuously, on a plentiful supply of broiled steaks, from the buttocks of one of the fattest of the beeves. So secure did the reivers consider themselves from pursuit, that they did not use the precaution of setting a proper watch, but entrusted this important post to a boy who followed them from home; who no sooner had his post assigned him, than, overcome by fatigue, he threw himself down on the heath and fell fast asleep. Though Kilravock was far advanced in life, and lame besides, he no sooner missed his cattle, than he collected the most efficient of his retainers, and issued the *crois taridh*, and followed the tract of his cattle; so that by the time he came in sight of the beasts, he found himself at the head of a numerous and resolute band; among whom our hero held an advanced post. Though Kilravock's party outnumbered the reivers, so assured were they of encountering a formidable resistance, that they used every necessary precaution. Being, by the concurring favourable circumstances of the darkness of the night, and somnolency of the faithless sentinel, enabled to surround the bothy, in which the reivers were feasting, a shower of arrows from the pursuers was the first intimation they had of danger. The bothy was so closely besieged as to admit of no egress; those within laboured under the disadvantage of shooting at random, whereas the pursuers were so favoured by the light within the bothy, that their arrows did fearful execution. John Macandrew's eye was in search of the chief, whom he soon recognized amid his followers, by the superiority of his dress; an arrow from John's bow, pinned him to the beam against which he leaned; which feat was no sooner observed by Mackintosh of Kyleachy, than he exclaimed—
“ Dia as buaidh leat Ian Mhic Anndra, tha thamh an Dalnahait-

nich"—God and victory be with you John Macandrew that dwell in Dalnahaitnich. Upon hearing this ill-timed compliment, which he knew would subject him to considerable danger, if any of the freebooters should escape, he indignantly replied—"Mile Molachd air do theang' Ian chaim Choilachi"—a thousand curses on your tongue, gleyed John of Kyleachy. The result of this dreadful fray was the destruction of the miserable reivers, for whose slaughtered bodies the hut in which they fell, formed a funeral pile. None returned to tell the tale, but the faithless sentinel, who had been witness of this onslaught; but who, by the darkness of the night, was enabled to remove to a distance from danger.*

Connected with the parish by burial, is the celebrated Jacobite bard, Ian Manndach or Lòm. After the total defeat at Culloden of the unfortunate party, whose feats he had so often panegyricized, John fled across the river Nairn, towards the hills to the south of the field of battle, where he skulked, till hunger compelled

* Not long after this bloody scene, John, as he anticipated at the time, had substantial cause to curse Kyleachy for his ill-timed compliment. A party of strangers had been seen skulking through the woods and hills near John's house. Their dress betrayed their country, and their skulking, with equal certainty, indicated their business. John, notwithstanding his vigilance, was overtaken one day by these men, as he was looking after his cattle. They asked him if he knew John Macandrew—he answered in the affirmative. Being offered a sixpence, if he would conduct them to his house, John readily pocketed the bribe and led the way. On his arrival, he told his wife that the strangers wanted his master, and wished to know if he was at home. His wife, with great presence of mind, entered into his views in carrying on the deception (he being taken on account of diminutive size for the herd), told the men that her husband was not at present within, but that she expected him to return soon, and requested them to rest till his return, with which request they readily complied. In order to enable her husband to mature whatever plans he might devise for extricating himself from his present danger; she, with well-feigned hospitality, laid a plentiful supply of bannocks and milk before the strangers. While the men were partaking of his wife's viands, John was amusing himself at the fire side in bending a bow, which seemed to be far beyond the strength of his diminutive body, when a smart slap on the side of the head from his wife's brawny arm caused John to start from his apparent unconcern; she desiring him at the same time to look after his cattle, and tell if he saw his master returning; John, with apparent reluctance, sneaked towards the door, and climbed up to the top of a close topped fir tree that stood at a short distance from his door, (where he had roosted by night, ever since the slaughter at Crò-clach,) and where he had a bow and a plentiful stock of arrows. No sooner did he safely ensconce himself in his eyrie, than he cried out that his master was coming. This being heard by the party within, they hastened out one after another; but no sooner did each appear outside the door, than he fell by an arrow from John's bow. Thus fell Achaluachrach's avengers, as if by some invisible agent. A few small green hillocks, with a plentiful crop of nettles, the natural products of the grave, pointed out where the mortal remains of those misguided men had been deposited; but the desolating flood of 1829, so graphically described by Sir T. D. Lauder, in his Account of the Floods in Morayshire, has completely obliterated these. This tragic scene has been celebrated by a truly pathetic ballad composed by Auchluachrach's bride, in which all the most prominent incidents connected with this bloody fray, as well as her own blasted connubial anticipations, have been delineated, not only with fidelity, but with a pathos, which will ensure it a place among the poetical productions of the country, as long as the forcibly poetical language in which it is written will have any admirers.

him to seek a place of retreat more suitable to his miserable condition. On the second or third evening after the defeat of his party, he arrived, faint, weary, and broken-hearted at the little farm-house of Lochanhully, on the banks of the Dulnan, where he experienced as much kind hospitality from the humane landlord, as his limited circumstances would admit of. As soon as his immediate wants were relieved, John laid his weary limbs on that bed, from which he was destined never to rise again. As it soon appeared evident to the landlord, that the hand of death was pressing fast and heavy on his guest's eyelids, he tenderly asked the latter, if he had any directions to give respecting his funeral. "Give yourself no unnecessary concern regarding my funeral," was the dying man's caustic reply, "I will be there myself and will see about it." In a few hours thereafter, John's muse became silent for ever, and his bones found a resting-place in Cnochdan nan Gael, a small spot in the west side of the parish church-yard, set apart as a burying-place for strangers.

Land-Owners.—The Right Honourable the Earl of Seafield is the sole proprietor of the parish, whose family seat is Castle Grant, in the parish of Cromdale; though the family burying-place has been in this parish at least since the year 1585. A splendid mausoleum was built last season for the family, from a design by Mr Playfair of Edinburgh.

Parochial Registers.—Previous to the induction of the present minister in 1820, the registers of baptisms and marriages were very irregularly kept. The earliest entry of baptisms (and there is but one), is in 1779, and of marriages in 1796. Since 1820, all the records have been very regularly kept.

Antiquities.—On a plain piece of barren moorland, near the Inn of Aviemore, there is a Druidical temple, which was till lately in a state of great preservation, when one of the small tenants in the neighbourhood, removed some of the stones to build a house for himself.

At Dunmullie, there can be traced the vestiges of a moat fenced by a ditch, on which, according to tradition, there stood the residence of one of the ancient Lords of Glenchernich, previous to their removal to Kinchurdy, their last residence in this parish.

In the face of the hill above Dunmullie, there is a large stone, in form not unlike a chair, and which is still called Bigla's Chair, as it is said that from this chair Bigla (once proprietor of Glenchernich), mounted her horse on her way to Duthil to hear mass.

Half-way between Dunmullie and Duthil, there is another stone, hollowed in the centre, where the same lady is reported to have deposited her keys, when going on the same religious errand.

III.—POPULATION.

The population in 1755 amounted to 1785, including Rothiemurchus.

| | | |
|------|-------|------------------|
| 1792 | 830, | exclusive of Do. |
| 1801 | 1113, | Do. |
| 1821 | 1154, | Do. |
| 1831 | 1309, | Do. |

The yearly average of births for the last seven years is $30\frac{1}{2}$
marriages, $9\frac{1}{4}$

Number of insane, 3; fatuous, 2; blind, 6; deaf and dumb, 2. Of the insane, one is blind, and another dumb, but not deaf. Of the fatuous, one is blind.

Language, &c.—Until of late years, the Gaelic might be said to be the only language spoken or understood; but, by the settlement of a few strangers from the Lowlands among the people, the long possession which the language enjoyed has been disturbed. Those whose business brought them into immediate and frequent contact with those strangers, were from necessity obliged to attempt to speak a kind of imperfect English. Another circumstance which contributed much to the advancement of the English, is the introduction of the intellectual or explanatory system into the parochial schools.

Among the popular customs prevalent here, may be noticed penny-weddings and funeral festivities, in both of which there is much to be lamented, deprecated, and amended.

Smuggling has been so completely suppressed, that it may be said to be a tale of years long bygone.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

If the present state of husbandry be contrasted with that of thirty years ago, the change will appear to have been great. At the former period, farm-produce consisted of bear or big on dunged land; rye; black oats; brocked oats; and a few patches of white oats. The quantity raised was but seldom equal to the consumption; but the deficiency was generally supplied by the humane proprietor, the late Sir James Grant of Grant, whose paternal regard for his people was unremitting. At the period alluded to, there were scarcely any turnips sown, if we except a few ridges raised by the clergyman; and so unacquainted was he with the use of them, that he generally sold them to the poor in the neighbourhood, who used them as food. The present clergyman may be said to be the first who used compost of farm-yard dung, and moss earth, and

lime, and introduced a regular rotation of cropping. From the year 1827 to 1834* inclusive, the crops were so abundant, that a very considerable quantity of grain was exported; and of such quality as to secure the highest market price.

The system most generally practised is a five-shift course; *1st*, green crops, viz. potatoes and turnips; *2d*, barley, or oats laid down with clover and rye-grass seeds; *3d*, a crop of hay; *4th*, pasture; and last oats. The only objection to this system is, that the soil has not sufficient time to rest. Bone dust has been of late years used by some of the tenants, with all the success which generally results from the use of that stimulant. In the aggregate, a considerable quantity of waste ground has been brought into culture. The turf-built farm huts of former years are fast disappearing, and succeeded by stone and lime cottages, whose white-washed walls, and straw-thatched roofs, afford a pleasing contrast with their dingy predecessors.

The general duration of leases is nineteen years; and so indulgent is the proprietor, that no industrious tenant entertains any fear of being removed at the termination of his lease.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Market-Towns.—The nearest market-towns are those of Inverness, Nairn, and Forres, all which may be said to be equidistant (twenty-six miles,) from the centre of the parish. In the village of Grantown, (distant about eight miles,) there are feeing-markets for servants, held in the months of November and May; also cattle-markets to suit the great southern markets.

Means of Communication.—No Highland district is better accommodated with means of communication. The great Highland road between Perth and Inverness passes through the parish for fifteen miles. In the hamlet at Carr Bridge, a post-office was established in July 1836. From Carr Bridge, a road branches off to Grantown, on which a mail-gig runs daily. This road is joined at Carr Bridge, near the confluence of the Spey and Dulnan, by another road that passes through the southern district of the parish. In the parish, there are two bridges over the Dulnan. The one at Sluggan, was built soon after 1745, on the line of road formed under the superintendence of General Wade. Since the desolating flood of 1829, it is scarcely passable. The other is at the ham-

* Since the above-mentioned year, the crops have been so much injured by early frosts and mildew, (especially the crops of 1836 and 1837,) that the little meal the grain yields is of a bad quality, and along the banks of the Dulnan, so great was the an age, that the tenants could not depend on any of their own growth for seed.

let from which it derives its name, was built in 1791, and is in excellent repair.

Ecclesiastical State.—Part of this parish was detached to form the *quoad sacra* parish of Rothiemurchus. The church, an excellent edifice, built in 1826, is situated within two and a-half miles of the eastern extremity of the parish. It is seated for the accommodation of between 800 and 900 persons; the seats are all free. The manse was built in 1704; rebuilt in 1763. In 1804, it got a thorough repair, and an additional wing of two apartments, besides attics. Notwithstanding various patchings it received subsequent to the last mentioned year, it was found necessary last summer to take it down. The new manse is not yet finished; but it bids fair to yield all necessary accommodation. The glebe does not exceed three acres, including manse, offices, and garden. The stipend is fifteen chalders, half meal, half barley, payable according to the fiars of the county, with L. 100 Scots for communion elements.

There are (properly speaking) no Dissenters in the parish. About twenty families profess to be of the Established Church, but absent themselves from all places of worship. Their leader, a self-constituted teacher, visits them periodically. One principal feature in his and their creed, is a deep-rooted and bitter enmity against the Establishment. The name of this sect has not as yet found a place in any nomenclature. The communicants may average about 160.

Education.—There are four schools in the parish,—1st, the parochial; 2d, a school endowed by the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge; 3d, one partly so by the Education Society of Inverness; and 4th, a school of industry. The parochial schoolmaster's salary is L. 25, 13s. 5d. In such years as the present, when the people are reduced to destitution by the failure of their crops, the school fees are merely nominal. The higher branches would be taught, but the poverty of the people preclude their aspiring beyond the ordinary branches of education for their children. The teacher has the legal accommodation of house and garden. So well is the parish supplied with schools, that all that are desirous, can have access to one or other of them. It is to be regretted that the people are by no means so alive to the benefits of education as might be wished.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The number of persons at present upon the roll is 29. There are no funds for their re-

lief, except what arise from the weekly collections, fines, &c. and L. 1, 12s. being the interest of L. 40 produced by the sale of the wood of the old church, taken down in 1826. The funds are divided once a-year; and the poor are divided into two classes. The average sum assigned to each individual, annually, for the last seven years was, to those on the first class, 5s. 3d., and to the second 3s. 3d.; and, small as the pittance assigned to each is, there is a strong disposition manifested to obtain it.

Fairs.—There were several fairs held in the kirkyard of the parish at one period, but they have been, since the middle of the last century, partly discontinued and partly transferred to the village of Grantown, in the neighbouring parish of Inverallan.

Inns.—There are two very respectable inns on the Highland road; one at Aviemore, and the other at the hamlet of Carr Bridge.

Fuel.—The common fuel is peats. They are abundant and easily obtained.

February 1838.

QUOAD SACRA PARISH OF ROTHLEMURCHUS.

THE REV. CHARLES GRANT, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—Its present, which is also its ancient name, is derived from the Gaelic, *Ràth a' mhòr-ghìnthais*, signifying the plain of the great pines. Its name is suited to the appearance of the country, which is either covered with the debris of the ancient forest, or with a thriving young plantation of pine of natural growth.

Extent and Boundaries.—The parish is about seven miles in length, and ten miles in breadth, bounded on the north by the river Spey, separating it from Duthil and Alvie; on the east, by the united parishes of Abernethy and Kincardine; on the south and south-east, by the united parishes of Crathie and Braemar in Aberdeenshire; and on the west, by that portion of the parish of Alvie which lies upon the south side of the river Spey.

Topographical Appearance, &c.—This district presents a great variety of surface, consisting of beautiful tracts of level ground well cultivated, knolly eminences, covered with birch, Scotch fir, larch,

and different kinds of hard-wood ; while in the back-ground, and at the base of the lofty Cairngorum range, extends the large forest of pine, which renders this property so valuable. Near the west end of the parish is the Ord-bàn, (white hill), a hill standing solitary in advance of the great Grampian chain, beautifully wooded to near the summit, and presenting the rather uncommon appearance in the Highlands, of a mountain decorated with green verdure. There are excellent lime quarries. Along the base of this hill to the south, stretches Loch-an-Eilean, (lake of the island), more than a mile in length, and varying from half-a-mile to a quarter of mile in breadth. Upon its banks grow the weeping-birch and some fine specimens of the tall sombre pine, remains of the old forest. This lake contains an island where are the ruins of a castle, of which tradition speaks as one of the strongholds of the Wolf of Badenoch, celebrated for his burning of the Elgin Cathedral. It is chiefly remarkable in the present day for a very distinct echo, whose reverberations among the surrounding mountains have a very fine effect. Southwards, about half-a-mile from Loch-an-Eilean, is Loch Gamhuinn, encircled by the tall dark pine, in harmony with the wild Alpine scenery around. Along the margin of this lake, runs Rathad-na-meirlich (thieves' road) the common pass of the Lochaber reivers in their excursions to Morayland ; and it is probable that this was the scene of some striking event in their history, as the name of the lake (Loch of the Steers) has an affinity to their desperate and unlawful calling. Overhanging these two lakes on the south, is the branch mountain of Iuch Riach, which, with the Brae Riach, still further south, and belonging to the great chain, forms Glen-Ennich, a good pasturage for sheep. In this glen, which is of considerable extent, are several lakes, the chief of which is Loch-Ennich, surrounded upon all sides but one, by precipices of striking grandeur and majestic height.

The Brae Riach, above alluded to, is upwards of 4000 feet above the level of the sea, of a table shape, with numerous corries, affording shelter for the red deer and ptarmigan ; abounding with precipices dangerous to the hunter ; and the resort of gem-collectors in search of the Cairngorum quartz. Near the summit of this part of the Grampian range, about a mile distant from the boundary of the parish, is the source of the river Dee in Aberdeenshire, called by the country people the Wells of Dee. These wells are about a dozen in number, which unite their streams, and pass,

in the course of a few miles, through scenery of surpassing sublimity and grandeur.

To the east of Glen-Ennich, and about the centre of the parish, there is a bold pass through the mountains, named in the language of the country, Larich-ruadh, or red pass. Through this narrow gulley, a foot-path has been formed with much trouble by the removal of immense blocks of granite, which have fallen from the adjoining precipices on either side of the pass, with the view of communicating with the southern markets by a shorter route than the great Highland road presents.

The task of bringing cattle through this pass is one of difficulty and danger ; but a pedestrian, fond of the grand in nature, will have his toils amply repaid, while he wends his way along the base of the lofty Ben-Mac-dui. The shoulder of this mountain forms in this direction the boundary of the parish.

Soil.—Along the banks of the Spey, the soil is a rich alluvial deposit, producing heavy crops, but subject in rainy seasons to inundations of the river. The higher grounds are more secure but less fertile.

Hydrography.—Lakes and streams abound. Loch-an-Eilean and Loch-Gamhuinn to the west, Loch-Ennich to the south, and Loch-Morlich to the east, with many others of inferior note, are made serviceable, with the aid of numberless streams descending from the mountains, for the purpose of floating timber to the Spey, whence it is conveyed to Garmouth or the Moray Frith. The whole surface of the parish is indented with lakes, which, while they add to the beauty of the country, greatly enhance the value of the forest, by affording a cheap mode of conveyance. The Benie, Luinac, Altruadh, and Druie, are the names by which the principal streams are designated.

Fishes and Game.—Salmon, trout, eels, and pike, are found in abundance in the Spey ; and pike, eels, and trout of a very fine quality are produced by the lakes. In Loch-Ennich, char are found. The forest, half a century ago, was the resort of herds of red-deer and roe. Few of these are now met with, the sheep having occupied their place. Black game, pheasants, partridges, hares, rabbits, and especially ptarmigan abound.

Birds and Beasts of Prey.—The black eagle, the denizen of the mountains, occasionally visits the shepherd's flock, and the cunning fox still rears her cubs in the inaccessible wilds of Brae Riach. The osprey builds her nest and nurtures her young on

the top of one of the turrets of Loch-an-Eilean Castle, and supplies herself with food from the neighbouring lakes and streams, while the cormorant, on the glassy surface of the lake, swims slowly along, watchful to pounce on the finny tribe beneath.

Forests.—The greater part of the parish is covered with forest, calculated to extend over a surface of sixteen miles. It is now about forty years since the proprietor procured an act of Parliament to enable him to manufacture timber to an unlimited extent. During many years of that period, particularly during the late war, he derived an annual income varying from L.10,000 to L.20,000. The result is, that only a few remnants of the ancient forest now appear, though these cannot fail to impress the mind of the beholder with a vivid picture of its former glory. Not only the pine, but also the birch, grows luxuriantly in the parish. The alder appears in great vigour by the banks of the various rivulets, and on the lower grounds different kinds of hard-wood, as oak, lime, beech, and ash of goodly dimensions, adorn the policies of the demesne. Plantations of larch have been successfully tried in various parts of the property, which promise a rich return, and prove the soil to be well adapted for the growth of this ornamental and useful tree. For the purpose of manufacturing a portion of the timber into deals and staves, &c. both for foreign and domestic use, a handsome wooden building was erected several years ago, containing machinery capable of setting in motion ten circular saws, and an upright frame of eight plain saws. When in full operation, it required a force of from ten to fifteen men to work these, and a boy to increase or diminish the volume of water deemed necessary for the operations. When manufactured, the wood was floated down the Spey in large rafts, conducted by two men, to the village of Garmouth, where a manager always resided to preside over the sales.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

History speaks not with certainty regarding the original proprietors of this district of country, but tradition and probability point to the Cumming race as lords of Badenoch, Rothiemurchus, and Strathspey. When that name lorded it over the neighbouring lands, it is not probable that Rothiemurchus, centrically situated as it is, would have escaped this yoke. After the times of Robert the Bruce, their power was broken, and their influence and possession passed into other hands. The Shaws succeeded the Cummings in the possession of this property. A feud ex-

isted between the two races, carried on with various success, until finally the Shaws triumphed by stratagem. Tradition speaks of the bloody catastrophe. The leading men of the Cummings were upon an excursion to the low country, and the Shaws, apprized of this circumstance, resolved to waylay them upon their return and effect their ruin. The latter placed a sentinel upon the summit of the Calart hill, at the eastern boundary of the parish, with instructions to give a preconcerted signal as to the route of the Cummings, north or south of that hill. Their plan thus matured was followed up, and the hour at length arrived when the hostile parties met. A desperate encounter took place, and the Shaws prevailed. Not one of the foe escaped, and thus the sword effected what the law dared not accomplish. At the base of the Calart, there is a hollow still known by the name of Lagna-Cuimminich, indicative of the spot where the tragedy was acted. A day of retributive justice at length overtook the race of Shaw for this deed of blood. The last of that name who held the property, actuated by a spirit of malignant envy, murdered his step-father, the Dallas, an act which so irritated the mother of the youth, that, collecting the deeds and instruments by which her son could hope to hold the property, she escaped to Castle Grant, and surrendered to John Grant of Freuchy the whole rights and interests of the young Shaw. The Laird of Grant having thus acquired these lands, gifted them to his second son, Patrick, who, towards the close of the sixteenth century, took possession, and since that period till the present day, his descendants have been in the quiet and secure enjoyment of this inheritance. Connected with the history of the parish is the slaughter of one of the Earls of Athole, who, fleeing before his enemies, was surprised and murdered, when taking shelter behind a large stone near the summit of Inch Riach, called to this day, in allusion to this event, Clach-Mhic-Allan, the Earl of Athole's Stone.

Eminent Characters.— We are not aware of any names of celebrity, either in the arts or sciences, connected with the parish. Tradition hands down the names of several individuals eminent in their day for deeds of active strife. Macalpaine and Tighearna Bàne, lairds of Rothiemurchus, are names endeared to the inhabitants, more by the record of their services in the cause of benevolence, than by any remarkable traits of character or talents peculiar to themselves. John Roy Stewart, one of Prince Charlie's Colonels, and a native of Kincardine, in this vic-

nity, fled from the field of Culloden and concealed himself for many years in the forests of Glenmora and Rothiemurchus, whence at length he effected his escape to France, where he died. Some of his descendants yet live in this parish, and retain the affectionate remembrance of acts of kindness shown them by their relative while an exile and in the service of the King of France.

Land-owners.—Sir J. P. Grant, Knight, Puisne Judge at Calcutta, is the sole proprietor of the parish; a gentleman of acknowledged talent, and eminent for his services in the cause of civil liberty. When acting in the capacity of judge at Bombay, he supported the dignity of the Bench by asserting, in opposition to the then governor, Sir John Malcolm, the rights of the native population as British citizens, to the privileges conferred by law. As he could not conform to the despotic views of the reigning government, he resigned his office, but was a few years thereafter restored to the Bench, (where he now sits,) by a succeeding government.

Parochial Registers.—The earliest entries for both baptisms and marriages are in the year 1774. The registers have been always kept distinct from those of Duthil, but have not been regularly kept till within the last dozen years.

Antiquities.—The Castle of Loch-an-Eilean is the only antiquity in the parish. It stands upon an island evidently artificially formed in a part of the lake of great depth. The remains of a path-way from the mainland are easily traced. The records of the family now in possession of the property, speak of it as a ruin two centuries ago; and the date of its erection; indeed, the purposes for which it was originally built, are hid in obscurity, antiquarians disputing whether it was intended as a stronghold or a religious house. Tradition refers it to the era of the Cummings, as one of their houses of retreat, during the early feudal broils.

Modern Buildings.—The mansion-house at the Doune, the residence of the proprietor, is the only building of note in the parish. It is a modern building without architectural pretensions, pleasantly situated on the banks of the river Spey, surrounded by shrubberies of great taste, and the policies around beautifully wooded. No situation on the banks of the Spey possesses greater attractions. The garden, placed at a short distance from the mansion, in a deep dell among rich plantations, has had its natural features much improved through the taste of the late Duke of Bedford and his amiable

Duchess, who chose this as their favourite summer residence. Its inequalities of surface, so unusual in modern gardens, its natural and artificial beauties, and the picturesque character of the vicinity, have attracted many delighted visitors.

III.—POPULATION.

The population has been gradually decreasing for the last ten years. In 1831, it amounted to upwards of 600 souls, while the last census, in 1841, gives the number of 521. To account for this decrease, the fact presents itself, that a surplus population was introduced into the parish by the influx of strangers, for the purpose of assisting in the manufacture of wood, which being now at a close, compels many to seek for other localities where labour is more in demand.

Language and Customs.—The foregoing circumstance, the influx of strangers, also explains the more general prevalence of the English language in this district, than in the neighbouring parishes. The Gaelic still retains its hold among the aged, but the young manifest great anxiety to acquire the knowledge of the more useful English.

Not only has smuggling ceased, but penny-bridals and extravagant festivity at funerals have, it is to be hoped, been for ever abolished. The games wont to be practised here and throughout the Highlands are forgotten; and instead, the young men betake themselves on holidays to the practice of shooting at a target.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Those who devote themselves to husbandry are not behind their neighbours in the march of progressive improvement, and they enjoy great advantages from the lime-quarries in the parish, and the facility with which, through the landlord's kindness, they can procure fuel to burn the limestone. A sufficient quantity of produce, such as oats, bear, potatoes, and turnips, is raised for home consumption. This was not the case at a late period. It is a fact, that a farmer not long since deceased, grew turnips upon trial, but felt greatly disappointed at the result, alleging that they enabled his cattle to consume too much fodder—so that the practice was at that time abandoned. Experience has taught the present generation a different lesson.

The labouring portion of the population have acquired much of the improvident character peculiar to manufacturing districts, live generally in extremes, either in extravagant abundance or destitution. Necessity, the mother of invention, is gradually accom-

plishing the overthrow of habits of wasteful expenditure ; and frugality is likely, ere long, to be acknowledged as a virtue.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Market-Towns.—There are none in the parish, the nearest being Inverness, at the distance of thirty-three miles. The villages of Grantown, distant sixteen miles, Kingussie, twelve miles, and Castletown of Braemar, thirty miles, are the resort of the farmers for the sale of their cattle.

Means of Communication.—Along the southern bank of the Spey runs a line of county road, stretching from Craigellachie bridge, near Rothes, to the Bridge of Spey, near Kingussie, and passing through this parish. Communication is kept up with the great Highland road by means of a ferry-boat across the Spey at Inverdrue, distant from the line about half a mile, and by several private boats. The sub post-office, at Lynwilg, on the north bank of the Spey, distant two miles, is the receiving-office of the district. The royal mail conveys letter bags to this office from Perth, Inverness, Carr Bridge, and Kingussie.

Ecclesiastical State.—This was at one period a distinct parish from Duthil. It was disunited and formed into a *quoad sacra* parish, by Act of Parliament V. Geo. IV. cap. 90, in the year 1824. The present church, situated to the west of the mansion-house of the Doune, and surrounded by a belt of planting and an efficient dike, was rebuilt by Sir J. P. Grant, at an expense of L.395. The manse, situated at the base of the Ord-bàne, half a-mile distant from the church, was completed by the commissioners under the above act in the year 1830, at an expense of nearly L.750 ; and the present incumbent was inducted in September of that year. The church is in a state of good repair ; but the manse having been very carelessly constructed, notwithstanding the scandalously enormous expense incurred by Government in its erection, requires attention and an occasional outlay of money by the minister, in order to keep it in a proper condition. The garden wall is a hideous object, and built in so slovenly a manner, that portions of it are continually toppling to the ground. The glebe, inclusive of the garden and site of the manse, contains four acres, one rood, and two falls. The stipend amounts to L. 120 per annum, without any allowance for communion elements.

There are no Dissenters in the parish, with the exception of one Roman Catholic, and one family of the Baptist communion. The number of communicants is about 60.

Education.—There is but one school in the parish, centrally situated. The salary attached to the office, and paid by the proprietor, is L. 10 per annum. Advantage has not hitherto been taken of the late Highland School Act. The attendance at school averages from 50 to 70; and were it not for the poverty of the people, and the smallness of the salary, which prevents the teacher from bestowing gratuitous education upon any, nearly double this number would avail themselves of the opportunity of receiving instruction, so much desiderated by the whole body of the people. None of the charitable educational societies of Scotland has yet stepped forward with a helping hand to aid in this benevolent object.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The funds for the relief of the poor are derived from collections in church, donations, and the interest on a small fund lodged in the bank. Through the liberality of the late Duke of Bedford, the present Dowager Duchess of Bedford, and the kind interest taken in the welfare of the poor, by Mrs J. G. Craig, Edinburgh, daughter to Sir J. P. Grant, the annual funds have averaged between L. 50 and L. 70 per annum, for the last ten years, which has placed the poor in a state of comparative comfort.

Fuel, &c.—The common fuel is peats and wood, of which there is great abundance in the parish.

No fairs are held in this parish, and the only public-house is one at the boat-house of Inverdrue.

February 1842.

PARISH OF DRAINIE.

PRESBYTERY OF ELGIN, SYNOD OF MORAY.

THE REV. DR RICHARD ROSE, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

DRAINIE comprehends the ancient and united parishes of Kineder, a parsonage; and Ogston, a mensal church, of which the Bishop of Moray drew the great teinds. Ogston was disjoined from St Andrews and annexed to Kineder in 1642. The church of the united parish was built about 1666, near the mansion-house, and on the estate of Drainie, and thereby gave name to the united parish.

Name.—The etymology of Kineder is evidently Celtic, (*ceaneder*, signifying a peninsula or point between the Moray Frith and lake of Spynie,) but the derivation of Drainie, like its ancient territory, is fiercely disputed between the modern Celts and Picts, and I must leave them to settle it if they can. That the Celts at some time, and prior to the Picts, possessed Drainie, is, I think, evident, from the Celtic origin of the names of all the principal farms or promontories, such as *Ardivat*, *Coulard*, &c. descriptive of their locality; but when the Celts possessed it, or when the Picts first took possession of it, neither Roman nor British history determines. Certain it is, that the Celts and their language were expelled at a very early period from the lowlands of Moray, and never were able to regain a footing in it, even after the Pictish kingdom was overthrown in the year 842. But, though conquered, the Picts were neither extirpated nor expelled; chieftains and nobles, no doubt, were, like those of Moray, killed, transferred, or banished; but the idea of extirpation of the people is absurd. The Picts, long before 842, had conquered Moray. They contended, and often successfully, not only against Malcolm I., but against all the Malcolms who sat upon the Scottish throne. They then held Moray, and their descendants still hold it. They then spoke the Pictish, which is nothing else than a dialect of the Danish or Norwegian, in other words, what we still speak in Drainie, *good broad Scotch*.

Boundaries, &c.—This parish, as its ancient name imports, is a peninsula; bounded on the north, by the Moray Frith; on the south, by the lake of Spynie; on the east, by the river Lossie; and on the west, by the parish of Duffus. It is in form a parallelogram; in length about four, and in breadth about two miles. It is low or flat, and, excepting on its northern boundary, approaches nearly to a level. Its southern boundary, stretching along lake Spynie, through the canal of which the tide now flows, is cold and swampy.

The low drained fields consist of rich loam or marly clay, and bear heavy crops of every kind of grain; the lighter grounds rest upon a substratum of gravel, or upon pure white sand. The quality of the ground is various, and the transition from the very best to the worst so sudden, that scarcely twenty acres alike are to be found. About a square mile in the centre is of the very worst description. It never was good,—commons seldom are so; but what was naturally bad, was made worse, by peeling and paring off the surface for fuel, as often as its stunted heath would hold the turf together and enable it to burn. To hide the nakedness of the land, part of it has been planted with firs or pine, but why in planting it they did not study beauty or utility I know not; it would puzzle any one to account for its zig-zag direction. This oddity in the way of ornamental plantation, and another patch or two of firs in the south-east corner of the parish, are our only plantations. Neither oak, ash, elm, birch, nor any of the deciduous tribes have been attempted, though more likely to succeed on a low maritime coast than pine, which only comes to perfection on more elevated grounds, and at a greater distance from the sea. Fossil oaks have frequently been found, and of great dimensions; and *Oaken-head*, (the name of a farm adjoining these plantations,) would indicate that oak, natural or planted, once flourished there.

The sea, at some distant period, it is manifestly seen, covered all the low lands of Drainie. As it retired it left behind a beach or strand of polished water-worn stones, now from eight to twenty feet higher than the surface of the present arable fields; and this high beach not only guards as it were the opening on the north between the Causca and Coulard hills, but extends on the east from Lossiemouth to the lake of Spynie. The mass of water-worn stones, hurled together between Canal bridge and Kay's bridge, is perhaps the greatest of its kind in Britain.

Coast.—On the east, fronting Spey's Bay, the coast is flat and low; the sea at ebb in high tides recedes a mile from the river

Lossie, and touches or closes with it at high-water. The greatest depth of water on the Bar at spring-tides is ten feet, in ordinary tides sometimes less than eight. The unfortunate mariner that is overtaken by the storm, and who, in hopes of saving his life, runs his ship ashore, or is driven on it by the tempest at low water, must inevitably perish. From the violence of the surf which lashes this shallow coast in every northern storm, no ship can live, nor boat give aid or assistance. The decks are swept of every living soul, and the vessel itself, if it holds together, digs its own grave in the shifting sand, and in a few days disappears from human view. Such has been the fate of too many. Scarcely a year passes that does not tell the mournful tale. I cannot assign the cause, why more ships have been lost in Spey's Bay since the erection of the light-house on the opposite coast at Tarbet point, than ever were lost in the same number of years, previous to its erection. On the northern side of this parish, the coast is bold and rocky. A reef or chain of hidden rock, a mile distant from the shore, runs parallel to the Coulard and Causea Hills. In calm weather, this reef is visible from the neighbouring height, and its course may be traced by the black curl of the water over its surface, and in tempestuous weather by the tremendous billows that dash and break upon it. That part of the reef called the Great Skerry, is at all times visible. Providence has in mercy lifted the head of this reef above the waters, as if to warn mariners of the hidden rocks that flank it right and left. On this fatal reef, more than forty vessels are known to have been wrecked within these fifty years past, and many no doubt have shared the same disastrous fate, that never have been known or heard of. That the light-house at Tarbet point on the opposite coast is of some use, as it guards the mariner against mistaking the Dornoch Ferry for Cromarty Bay, is admitted, but not one vessel ever was or will be lost in the Dornoch Frith for ten that has been and in all probability will be, lost on and near the Skerries. There is a talk of erecting a light-house on the Moray side of the Frith.

ABSTRACT of Meteorological Observations taken at Lossiemouth in the years 1836, 1837, and 1838,
furnished by Dr William Geddes, E. I. C. S.

| | Temperature. | | | | Mean range. | Mean temperature. | Winds. | | | | | | | | | | | | Rain and snow, with | | | | | | | | | | | | Total of rain and snow. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------|---------|----------|---------|-------------|-------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|----------|--------|--------|--------|---------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------------------------|-----------|--------|--------|--------|----------|--------|--------|--------|----------|--------|--------|--------|----------|--------|--------|--------|----------|
| | 9 A. M. | | 9 P. M. | | | | S. E. | | | | N. E. | | | | N. N. W. | | | | N. W. | | | | S. W. | | | | Calm. | | | | | Variable. | | | | S. S. E. | | | | E. N. E. | | | | N. N. W. | | | | W. N. W. | | | | S. W. | | | | Total. | |
| | Highest. | Lowest. | Highest. | Lowest. | | | 9 A.M. | 9 P.M. | 9 A.M. | 9 P.M. | 9 A.M. | 9 P.M. | 9 A.M. | 9 P.M. | 9 A.M. | 9 P.M. | 9 A.M. | 9 P.M. | 9 A.M. | 9 P.M. | 9 A.M. | 9 P.M. | 9 A.M. | 9 P.M. | 9 A.M. | 9 P.M. | 9 A.M. | 9 P.M. | 9 A.M. | 9 P.M. | | 9 A.M. | 9 P.M. | 9 A.M. | 9 P.M. | 9 A.M. | 9 P.M. | 9 A.M. | 9 P.M. | 9 A.M. | 9 P.M. | 9 A.M. | 9 P.M. | 9 A.M. | 9 P.M. | 9 A.M. | 9 P.M. | 9 A.M. | 9 P.M. | 9 A.M. |

The minimum observations of temperature in the above table were noted from a registering thermometer exposed to the open air at night, and those at 9 A. M. and 9 P. M. were taken from another instrument (both on Fahrenheit's scale) suspended in the open air, with a northern exposure. The mean range of temperature in each month is that formed between the averages of the minima and of the observations at 9 A. M. ; and the mean temperature of each month, as well as of the year, has been derived from taking the average between these two points. From other sources of information, however, it would appear, that the mean of the maxima of temperature ranges throughout the year from one to two degrees above the average heat of 9 A. M., and, accordingly, it is believed, that the mean annual temperature of Lossiemouth may be considered about 43°. In the table, no day has been considered fair, in which any rain or snow has fallen throughout the twenty-four hours.

Minerals, Rocks, and Caverns.—In the Coulard Hill, between Lossiemouth and Stotfield, there are appearances of lead, said to be of the very best quality. It is found in detached masses imbedded in the rocks, which are of fluor spar. Dr Lewis Gordon, in the last Statistical Account of this parish, informs us, that some adventurers from England expended in his time more than L. 500, but could discover no vein of ore worth working; but had it been worth working, the ignorant dissipated fellow employed to make the trial, was capable of spending a much greater sum to no purpose. Very near this, there is a vein of limestone, and a powerful spring of fresh water, issuing forth at low ebb tides near the old Stotfield harbour. The whole range of rock along the Causea shore is one uninterrupted mass of freestone, lying on horizontal strata differing in thickness, hardness, and colour. The ornamental hewn work of all the great mansions in this and the neighbouring counties, has been taken from the Causea quarries, and Thames Street in London was at one time paved with stones from Lossiemouth.

Gerardine's cave, in Elgin charters denominated Holy-Man-head, probably the abode of a hermit, was about twelve feet square. It was ornamented with a Gothic door and window, and commanded a long but solitary prospect of the eastern coast. Its Gothic door and window were demolished about sixty years ago by a drunken sailor, and the whole cave has since been scooped out by quarriers.

The Causea caverns, caves, and fissures are so numerous, as to bid defiance to the wanton spoiler. There, the violence of winds and waves has cut the softer parts of the rock into many fantastic forms resembling caves, arches, and pillars. Those immediately west of the village of Causea, are truly beautiful. The descent to them is by a safe and gently sloping road, to a beautiful verdant lawn, bounded on three of its sides by perpendicular rocks from 60 to 100 feet high, as smooth and regular as the walls of a garrison. The entrance to this lawn, through a natural arch, its stately pillars and lofty alcoves, repay the trouble of visiting them. No sooner does the stranger enter, than the gulls, daws, and pigeons, which nestle on the ledges of these rocks, and are usually annoyed by the little urchins who frequent them, take wing. Of this wonderful scenery, the Gull's or Gow's Castle, as it is called, is to the young the most attractive. It stands, a monument of former times, isolated and detached from the rocks of which it once formed a part, and tells us

of the destructive power of those warring elements which it has so long withstood; but its fall, though distant, is approaching; the slow consuming influence of wind and tide has not only narrowed but perforated its base, and its heavy, flat, projecting top threatens, by its weight, to accelerate its ruin. On the western side of the lawn is a cave, once the cell of a hermit, but degraded to a stable by Sir Robert Gordon, who concealed his horses in it in the Rebellion of 1715. On this verdant vale, parties sit down to pick-nick dinners, where all the rarities of the season are gathered together. Everything around them contributes to their pleasure, the novelty of the scene, the different plants of variegated colours, creeping or hanging in festoons from the rocks, the noise and flight of frightened gulls, daws, and pigeons, the hoarse murmur of the sea, and the melody of song, cheer and gladden every heart. Farther west the rocks are more lofty and rugged, the caverns numerous, and all looking to the sea; some of them are yet unexplored, and it would be difficult and dangerous to explore them. To visit these, gentlemen and ladies, pleased with the scenery, and more pleased with each other, scramble hand in hand over slippery rocks, and rounded boulders, at the risk of breaking their necks and limbs.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Of the history of Moray, little is known prior to the reign of Malcolm II. and that little only records incessant insurrections and rebellions. Of Danish or Norwegian origin, the Picts of Moray hated and resisted the Celtic dynasty. In the southern provinces, the Picts, subdued by force, or bribed by favour, were sooner reconciled than the northern, who were at a greater distance, and feared them less. The murders of Malcolm, Duff, and Duncan, attest that they never scrupled as to the means of attaining their end. Unable of themselves to regain the throne, or preserve their independence, they called in the aid, as they had often formerly done, of their brethren the Danes. This called down the vengeance of Malcolm II. III. and IV. The punishment, though deserved, was severe. To weaken the power of the turbulent barons, some were killed, others banished to the south, and their estates confiscated. The bishopric of Moray, the fourth in order, was then erected, and the strong fortresses of Kinnedder, Spynie, and Plewland, since called Gordonston, were put into the peaceable but unwarlike hands of bishops, of whom Gregory, who held them anno 1120, was first Bishop of Moray.

By the policy of Malcolm, the address of Gregory, the superstition of Queen Margaret, and cunning of her confessor, Turgot, the Murriffs were deprived of their real estates. The bishops, into whose hands the real estates came, might well be satisfied. It laid the foundation of their future power and more ample revenue. The lands of Kinnedder were held by these church dignitaries, from the time of Queen Margaret, in uninterrupted succession, till the time of Patrick Hepburn, uncle to Earl Bothwell, who alienated them to the Earl of Moray, bastard brother to Queen Mary; his heirs assigned them to Brodie of Brodie, and Brodie's to Mr Brander, whose heir enjoys them. Gordonston, about the same unhappy period, fell to the Marquis of Huntly, as his portion of church plunder.

Antiquities. — Adjoining to the churchyard, in the centre of which the foundation of the ancient church of Kinnedder may still be traced, stood the once stronghold of Kinnedder, called the Castle, and now, by way of dignifying it, called the Bishop's palace. Archibald, tenth Bishop of Moray, is the only bishop of whom it is recorded that he made the Castle of Kinnedder his place of constant residence. Before the cathedral was fixed at Spynie, the bishops lived sometimes at Birnie, sometimes at Spynie, and sometimes at Kinnedder. They got the credit, to which they were not entitled, of building these strongholds. They might have repaired them; but they were built by the Celtic or Pictish barons, who lived many centuries before a bishop was heard of. The great tower of Kinnedder was defended by two walls, about fifty paces from each other, each wall having its ditch in front, and, what was more uncommon, an earthen rampart, from eight to ten feet wide, and as many feet high, behind each wall. The space enclosed comprehended about two acres, the form approaching to a hexagon; the outer wall was defended at each angle by a small tower. These small towers were square, solid, and projecting six feet beyond the wall. They were distant from each other about two casts of a javelin, and the ascent to them was from the rampart by a strong but rough stone stair. The storehouses and barracks stood directly east of the great tower; they were vaulted and grated; the walls four feet thick at bottom; and the tradition is that they were fire-proof. What remained of the doors and windows, and the hewn stones found among the rubbish, shows that the work was of the Gothic order, and highly ornamented in its day. This part of the fortress, having

the outer wall six feet thick, (from which there was a sally-port) formed the hypotheneuse of an obtuse-angled triangle, the two sides of which were sixty feet each in length. The great tower, which stood in the centre, after being deserted by the bishops, and taken possession of by owls, bats, and daws, was, from its great height, appropriated as a belfry to the ancient adjoining church of Kinnedder. The fortifications on the east were guarded by a morass, and two ditches, one of twenty-four, and a little beyond it, another of twelve feet wide, the drawbridge of which was lately discovered in making a drain. The horn-work, a hollow tower to defend these ditches, was converted by the bishops to a pigeon-house. The wall on this east side seems to have been about sixteen feet high; parts of it and of the small towers yet remain, and very lately, part of the earthen rampart. On the north, west, and south sides, which were probably more strongly fortified, the whole is now completely effaced. The Rev. Lachlan Shaw, the historian of Moray, who saw them in 1734, tells us that, in his time, the foundations of the castle and surrounding fortifications were so entire, as to be easily traced; but since then, these walls have been levelled with the ground; the earthen ramparts have been thrown into the ditches which fronted them, the plough-share has passed over it, and the place that knew this stronghold of the Murriffs knows it no more. The labourers who filled up the ditches were astonished at the quantity of ashes and oak charcoal, and number of broken urns and human bones they met with, in levelling these earthen ramparts, more especially under their foundations. The reports of witnesses yet living induced the present incumbent to examine more minutely what yet remained of the earthen rampart, and which was about to be removed. Under the foundations he found the graves closely packed. On removing the earth, there appeared first peat or turf ashes, then within the rude stone chest, oak-charcoal, and some fragments of human bones. The stone chests were scorched, and blackened with the fire by which the bodies had been burnt. When the stone chests were of hammer-dressed flags, the ashes were as smooth as if they had passed through a sieve, and were packed in it, and the charcoal laid on the cover, but not a vestige of bone among the ashes. All that could be found among the oak charcoal was sometimes a tooth, and sometimes small remains of the harder bones. Where the graves were of rude construction, consisting of common undressed stones, the peat or turf ashes were more

abundant, the oak charcoal was scanty, and the larger and harder bones, particularly the vertebræ, not half consumed.

I know not what our Pictish ancestors may have done, but it is certain the Celts did burn, and burn with oak. The Druids considered oak as the symbol of Deity; their altars were strewed with its leaves and encircled with its branches, and chaplets of oak were worn by the priests and by the people on all their religious ceremonies, none of which were more solemn than the funeral rites paid to the dead. That the Celts were expelled from Kinnedder and all the lowlands of Moray by the Picts, is admitted; and I think it must also be admitted, that the Celts built the fortress of Kinnedder, from which, after much slaughter, they were driven by the Picts, and the Picts in their turn expelled by Malcolm II. or III., and Kinnedder granted as a fief to the Bishops of Moray. The numerous graves running parallel to the wall, and covered by the high earthen rampart, which, till lately, never appear to have been disturbed, prove the ancient castle and fortification to have been the work of the Celts, or of the Picts, if they also burned their dead; but clearly disprove the claim of any Bishop of Moray having built either the Great Tower, or surrounding fortifications. Some, however, from the numerous fragments of urns found in Kinnedder, suppose the fortification to have been Roman, and an outpost of Burghead (Ptoroton).

“Warlike Hills.”—These are a range of artificial, conical earthen mounds, at nearly equal distances, and from twenty to thirty feet high, erected on the summits of the Causea hills, which stretch their perpendicular rocks on the north, along the Moray Frith, and raise their heads on the south, above the long extended plains of Moray. Their name denotes the end for which they were constructed. Commanding a distant prospect both by sea and land, they were used as telegraphic signal-posts. When the Celts possessed the land, they announced by lighted fires a hostile invasion by northern Celts or Danes. When the Pictish or Norwegian race possessed the land, they answered the same purpose, by summoning their armed warlike vassals to the field, or served to direct, through the Moray Frith, the course of the fleets of their brethren the Danes, who might come to their aid, or extend their conquests.

Eminent Characters.—After the establishment of Episcopacy in Moray, the bishops were the only proprietors of Kinnedder and Ogston, from the time of Malcolm II. down to that of the unfortunate Mary. But excepting the ruins of the old church of Kin-

nedder and its ancient cross, which yet stands, there is not a stone, obelisk, or remains of any ecclesiastical or public work, to tell of their existence.

Sir Robert Gordon, first of Gordonston, claims a niche among the historians of the north. He is author of the History of the Family and Earldom of Sutherland. He was second son of the Earl of Sutherland. He was great-grandfather to Sir Robert Gordon, who claimed the honour and titles of Sutherland, in opposition to the female claimant, the present Duchess. Little did he imagine, while composing his ingenious and elaborate history of their pedigree, that he was undermining the claim of his own great-grandson. To counterbalance the weighty authority of this history, Sir William Gordon, son of the claimant, wrote the history of *Joannes Ferrarius*, whose annals of Scotland were more favourable to his father's pretensions, and endeavoured to raise that obscure monk of the Abbey of Kinloss to the dignity of an historian superior to Sir Robert Gordon, his own ancestor, the historian of Sutherland; but Sir William's history of Ferrarius, as a partial pleading, has sunk into obscurity.

Of all the family of Gordonston, Robert, son of Lodvic, commonly known as Sir Robert the warlock, has been longest remembered. Educated at home in all the liberal sciences then known, he travelled on the continent, and made himself master of many secrets in natural history unknown to his illiterate countrymen, whom he took pleasure in frightening and astonishing. It was believed he was educated in Italy in the *School of the Black Art*. Many stories are told of his proficiency therein, which space does not allow us to recite here.

III.—POPULATION.

A rent-roll at Gordonston, taken about the year 1666, shows that from forty to fifty families lived on what would now be considered but a small farm. The return to Dr Webster gave 1174. The population in 1791 amounted to 1040; in the year 1821 to 1060; and in 1831 to 1296, whereof there were on

| | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|---|--------|----------|------------|
| Gordonston, estate of Sir William G. Cumming, Bart. | 221 | 205 | 426 |
| Kinnedder, estate of Colonel James Brander, | 68 | 54 | 122 |
| Stotfield village, the property of Colonel James Brander, | 67 | 101 | 168 |
| Lossiemouth, exclusive of Seatown, | 178 | 257 | 435 |
| Seatown or Fishertown of Lossiemouth, | 70 | 75 | 145 |
| | | | <hr/> 1296 |
| | | | 1060 |

| | | |
|--|------|-----|
| Increase of population since the census of 1821, | . | 236 |
| Population in 1841, | 1517 | |

In the villages of Lossiemouth and Stotfield, there reside 17 masons, 7 shoemakers, 5 house-carpenters, 6 tailors, 3 coopers, 3 blacksmiths, 4 bakers, 3 waggoners, 1 boat-carpenter, 2 butchers, 4 grocers, 7 British spirit-retailers, and 1 foreign spirit-retailer.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

About the year 1800, the mania for augmenting farms spread from south to north, and in 1809 the farms in this parish were reduced from the number of 68 to 38. Only three or four tenants in the whole parish of Drainie now remain on the farms occupied by their fathers at the date of the old Statistical Account. Little discernment was manifested in the choice of their successors. The highest bidders, men without capital, and many of them without skill or capital, were preferred. These were perfectly satisfied with the terms and duration of the lease, and well they might, for before the expiration of it, four-fifths of them were bankrupts and roused out. The war-prices of grain and cattle tumbling down at the peace of Amiens, no doubt accelerated their ruin; but their own folly and extravagance had just as powerful an effect. The old butts and bens, with kitchen and spens, were abolished, and mansions with dining-rooms, drawing-rooms, and parlours, which they could not furnish, or afford to furnish, were erected in their stead. The principal proprietor was then a minor, and but heir to an entailed estate. When he came to majority, he found himself loaded with a vast expense for these buildings, and the abortive attempt of draining the lake of Spynie.

Agriculture has made advances, though slowly, towards improvement. At the date of the last Statistical Account, turnips and artificial grasses were cultivated on a very narrow scale. White corn crops succeeded each other till the field became exhausted, which was then allowed to rest by running into grass, the natural product of the field. The common rotation at present is, 1st, fallow or green crop; 2d, corn; 3d and 4th, grass; 5th and 6th, corn. Too frequently beans or pease are substituted for green crop or fallow, not from ignorance but from necessity, as the poor farmer has not capital to wait a distant though more ample return. Only one farmer, Mr John Stephen of Coulard Bank, adopts the rule of never sowing two white corn crops in succession. Sea-weed is, at times, got in abundance and with little trouble, though in general not without much labour.

There are no complete stone enclosures in the parish. When

a field is enclosed, it is done with wood, purchased at a high price, obtained as a favour, and drawn from a great distance. As little encouragement is given to draining, little in that way is done.

The number of arable acres in the parish may be about 3000, the gross rental L. 4500; farms 38, ploughs 70. Two of the farms exceed 200 acres, five exceed 100 acres, and twelve exceed 80 acres.

Fisheries.—In the villages of Stotfield and Lossiemouth, there are forty-six families of fishermen, consisting of seventy men and twenty-five boys. These put to sea forty-five fishing-boats, nineteen of which are for herring, and twenty-six for white-fish. These twenty-six are of two sizes; the larger size is used during the winter and spring months, and the smaller during the summer. They belong to thirteen crews, who also man the nineteen largest class of boats during the herring-fishery, which commences about the middle of July, and ends about the 5th September.

The average income of each able seamen, exclusive of outlay for boats, nets, and fishing-tackle, may be from L. 90 to L. 100, besides an ample share of fish for food. Cod and herring are let for the season to curers at home; cod at 3d. or 4d. each fish, and herring at 10s. to 11s. 6d. per cran. Haddocks are generally sold at Elgin, or through the county, fresh, smoked, or stone-dried.

Shipping Trade of Lossiemouth.—The vessels frequenting this harbour are of the smaller class, rarely above seventy tons register, unless with a ballast cargo. This is owing to the want of water, which seldom exceeds nine feet at stream tides.

The number of vessels which entered inwards during the year ending January 1838, was 106, registering 4816 tons, navigated by 352 men. The number outwards during the same period with cargoes and part cargoes was 44, registering 1918 tons, navigated by 144 men.

The imports, about 4500 tons of English coal; 1000 tons of Scotch coal; 400 tons bones and bone-dust; 140 tons of bark; 150 tons salt; some hundred empty barrels, and other fishing stores for curing herring and cod-fish; and a small cargo of merchant goods.

The exports were 4243 quarters of grain, 2000 barrels of herring, 200 barrels of cod-fish, and three cargoes of plantation timber.

Steam-vessels from London and Leith, trading through the Moray Frith, call off this place during the summer season, and when

weather permits, land and ship goods, passengers, and luggage. The imports generally are merchant goods, chiefly foreign and colonial.

The exports are live-stock, fresh provisions, agricultural produce, salmon, pickled cod and herring, making together about 3276 barrels bulk of five cubic feet each. The English coal imported is used for family use, and carried to Elgin and the adjoining country; the Scotch coal for breweries, distilleries, limekilns, and brickworks; the grain goes to the different ports of the kingdom; the herring to the London, Liverpool, and Irish markets, and occasionally a small cargo to Hamburgh and Stettin.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Elgin, to which there is an excellent toll-road, was, till the introduction of steam-boats, almost the only mart for the little traffic of this parish. There is a daily post. The runner and post-master are paid by Government.

A new and useful harbour is in course of being formed under the superintendence of Mr James Bremner of Wick, civil-engineer. The outer and inner basins are excavated from the solid rock, and, at ordinary tides, will admit vessels drawing fifteen feet water.

Ecclesiastical State.—A new and elegant church was built in 1823. It is central for the parish, but too far from Lossiemouth and Stotfield, where the population is rapidly increasing, and at present constitutes the majority of inhabitants. The church may accommodate 700. Most of the sittings are free, and rent only exacted where there is a competition for front seats. The manse, though old, is in decent and comfortable condition. The glebe is six acres in extent, and would rent at L. 9 or L. 10 Sterling. The stipend is 15 chalders. There are no chapels of ease, nor chapels of any denomination. The parish church is well attended. There are but few Dissenters, and these attend some of the Seceding or Dissenting chapels at Elgin.

Education.—Education is at a very low ebb. The parochial school is on the western part of the parish, nearly three miles from the populous villages of Lossiemouth and Stotfield, where a school is much needed. Till some endowment is obtained for a teacher, there, no man properly qualified will accept of the office. The parochial schoolmaster has the maximum salary.

One charitable institution deserves to be recorded. It took

its rise from a very calamitous event which befel the fishing crews of Stotfield, on Thursday the 25th December 1806, when no less than 21 seamen lost their lives, leaving 17 widows and 47 children unprovided for,—besides aged parents, and other relatives depending for their support on the labours of the deceased. Collections to the amount of L. 1075, 13s. were received, and a committee of gentlemen appointed to take charge of the distribution. They allowed each widow L. 3, and each child under fourteen years of age L. 1, 10s. half yearly. By the deaths of those originally appointed, the charge devolved on John Jack, Esq., merchant in Elgin, to whose accuracy, mildness, and firmness, in this business, the parish of Drainie is much indebted. His record of the annual distributions will be preserved along with the parochial registers. From the fall of interest, the allowance to the widow has been, since 1834, reduced to L. 1, 10s. annually. Only L.35 Sterling remains at present, and, after a lapse of thirty-two years, there are still eight of the widows surviving.

Poor.—The number of poor on the roll of session is confined as much as possible below 40. The sick, infirm, and aged only are put on the permanent list. Few in the rural district claim sessional aid; but in the villages of Lossiemouth and Stotfield, the number would be tripled, if all who asked relief obtained it. Were applications for relief from all disposed to make them, listened to, the rental of the parish in a short time would not suffice to satisfy the demands. The average annual amount of church collections for charitable purposes is L. 27, 16s. 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.; donations for the last year, L. 7; interest of money, (L. 320;) and mortcloth dues, L. 16, 18s.

February 1842.

PARISH OF FORRES.

PRESBYTERY OF FORRES, SYNOD OF MORAY.

THE REV. DUNCAN GRANT, MINISTER. *

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—THE most probable etymology of the name of Forres, is that which derives it from two Gaelic words, *Iar, uis*, denoting *near water*,—a signification which accurately corresponds with the locality of the town and parish; the former of which is built on the banks of a small stream, and the latter is bounded, for an extent of several miles, by the river and bay of Findhorn.

Extent, Boundaries, &c.—The parish extends about four miles from north to south, and varies considerably in breadth from east to west, being in some places not more than one mile, while in others it is nearly three; its greatest length is in the direction from north-east to south-west. It is of an irregular form, somewhat of a triangular shape, having a narrow stripe of land projecting from its south-east angle for nearly three miles into the adjoining parish of Rafford, which it nearly separates into two divisions. It is bounded on the north, by the bay or estuary of the river Findhorn, a tract of sands and carse ground which is daily overflowed by the tide; on the north-west and west, by the river Findhorn, which divides it from the united parishes of Dyke and Moy; on the south, by a small portion of the parish of Edinkilly, and the parish of Rafford; and on the east, by the parishes of Rafford and Kinloss. It may contain within its limits an area of nearly seven square miles.

More than one-half of the whole extent of the parish on the north-west side, bordering on the river, is an alluvial plain, little elevated above the level of the sea, under a high state of cultivation, and beautifully enclosed and subdivided by hedges and hedge-row trees. The central part is agreeably diversified by small round hills, and gentle acclivities, the slopes of which are cultivated, and the summits covered with thriving plantations or coppice-

* Drawn up by Robert Grant, Esq. of Kincorth, Advocate.

wood. The most conspicuous of these are the Cloven hills, so called from their peculiar formation, a cluster of abrupt and wooded eminences, situated close to the town on the east, on which public walks have been tastefully formed, which are much resorted to by the inhabitants of the town, and from whence beautiful views are obtained of the surrounding country. On the highest of these hills, a handsome octagonal tower of three stories in height, in the Gothic castellated style of architecture, having a flat leaden roof surrounded with a parapet and embrasures, and surmounted by a flag staff, was erected in 1806, by public subscription, in commemoration of Lord Nelson, and the victory of Trafalgar.

In the south-eastern quarter of the parish, the ground rises gradually to a very considerable elevation, and is chiefly occupied by moorish tracts, which are but partially cultivated, and exhibit a striking contrast to the fertility and beauty of the rest of the parish. Here, however, the hand of industry is making rapid advances in diminishing the waste-ground ; and there is every prospect that, in a few years hence, from the united effects of the progress of cultivation, and the growth of plantations which have been lately formed, this division of the parish will present a very improved appearance. The southern portion is principally composed of low wet land, interspersed with tracts of deep moss ; these, however, have of late years been much improved by draining, and are now almost entirely under cultivation.

The south-west corner of the parish is altogether covered with extensive plantations of Scotch fir and larch, with the exception of the farm of Cot-hall, which consists of several beautiful fields of haugh-land on the banks of the Findhorn, surrounded by stately timber trees, and separated by a broad expanse of wood from the other cultivated parts of the parish.

The general aspect of the parish, when viewed from any of the commanding eminences in the neighbourhood of the town, is rich and delightful, and presents to the eye a landscape abounding in every feature of rural beauty. From Nelson's Tower is obtained a splendid panoramic view, which, for extent and beauty, is scarcely excelled in any other part of Scotland. Extending far beyond the limits of the parish, it embraces a large portion of the plain of Moray, studded with towns, hamlets, gentlemen's seats, and well-cultivated farms, interspersed with groves and winding streams, and adorned with extensive woods and plantations. Bounding this foreground on the north, is seen the Moray Frith, in its whole

extent from Inverness, eastwards until it expands into the German Ocean, and beyond it the mountains of Ross, Sutherland, and Caithness.

Soil, Climate, &c.—As may be supposed, from the above topographical description, the soil varies considerably according to its situation. In the lower and more fertile part of the parish, it is a fine loam, in some places having an admixture of clay, and in general superincumbent on a sandy or gravelly subsoil. When under good management, it yields in luxuriance all kinds of grain and green crops. The high ground in the south-east of the parish is composed in some places of a retentive clayey soil, and in others of a compound of sand and moss, having likewise an admixture of gravel and large stones which impede the plough, and render its improvement very laborious. The middle part of the parish is generally of a light sandy nature, which, however, when properly fertilized with manure, is highly productive.

Morayshire has been always celebrated for the excellence of its climate, and the parish of Forres partakes in a high degree of the general mildness, dryness, and salubrity of the county : facts which are fully established by the general healthiness and longevity of the inhabitants. The parish is very seldom visited with severe epidemic diseases, although fevers are not uncommon, and cases of consumption and other pulmonary complaints are extremely rare. No case of Asiatic cholera has occurred in the parish. Several individuals have of late years been known to attain nearly a hundred years of age ; and there are still living in the parish several persons considerably above ninety,—while it is no uncommon circumstance to see men and women employed in active labour, who are upwards of eighty. Less rain falls here than in most other districts of Scotland, which, taken together with the dryness of the soil, renders the country in the neighbourhood of Forres particularly agreeable to reside in, and remarkably early in the ripening of crops and fruits. Cherries often ripen in favoured situations in the first week of June, and barley harvest frequently commences about the middle of July. The prevailing winds throughout the year are the west and south-west, which are generally accompanied with dry and genial weather ; but in the spring season there is often a period when cold easterly winds prevail, which retard the early vegetation, and destroy the fruit blossoms in the gardens.

Hydrography.—It has been already mentioned that the river Findhorn bounds the parish throughout its whole length on the

north-west. It has its source in the mountains to the south of Inverness, and, after a course of nearly forty miles, falls into the Moray Frith about four miles below Forres. It flows for a great part of its course between high rocky and wooded banks, exhibiting in many places the most beautiful and picturesque scenery. It is a large and impetuous river, and is often subject to sudden and destructive floods. The greatest of these of which there is any record, was that which took place on the 3d and 4th of August 1829, and which is so accurately and graphically described by Sir Thomas Dick Lauder, in his very interesting account of that calamitous event. The Plain of Forres was, on that occasion, the principal scene of its ravages, and its effects in this parish are still visibly marked along the banks of the river. The parish is likewise watered by the burn of Forres, a small stream which rises in the adjoining parish of Rafford, and after winding through the beautifully wooded grounds of Burdyards in this parish, it passes close to the west end of the town, at the base of its ancient Castle hill, having its course enlivened by several mills and a public bleaching-green. Besides the above, another small brook runs through the parish and joins the burn close to the town. There are also several perennial springs of excellent water, which amply supply the wants of the inhabitants.

Geology.—There is little in this parish to interest the geologist. The only rocks within its confines are of the secondary class of sandstone and limestone. They are situated in the south end of the parish, and are most conspicuous on the banks of the Findhorn, where they project in several places in high and precipitous cliffs overhanging the river, and form important features of the picturesque surrounding scenery.

Zoology.—Most of the animals generally met with in the other low and improved districts of Scotland are abundant, or occasionally to be seen in the parish. Of the rarer quadrupeds, it may be mentioned, that roe-deer sometimes are found in the woods of Burdyards and Mundole. Foxes and polecats, although not numerous, inhabit the same localities, where they prey on rabbits, which have of late increased to a great extent, and have become a serious nuisance. Badgers are known to exist, and traces of otters have been at different times observed along the banks of the river and burn.

Of birds,—the pheasant has of late years been introduced, and thrives well in the parish, and partridges and snipes are abundant. The ringdove is common in all the woods. Various species of

the hawk tribe are frequently seen ; but the kite, more commonly known here as the *glead*, has almost entirely disappeared from the parish. Different varieties of swallows, and also the swift, annually appear and disappear in their seasons ; but it has been remarked that the cuckoo is not now so regular a visitant of the parish as in former years, and several successive summers have of late passed without its delightful note being heard. Of the songster tribe, the thrush, the blackbird, and the linnet are common ; and the siskin, bullfinch, and goldfinch, although not so numerous, may always be found. The water-ouzel frequents the sides of the streams, and instances have been known of the kingfisher being seen in the same vicinity. It must not be omitted, that on the banks of the Findhorn, at the verge of this parish, a colony of herons have for ages established themselves. Their nests are built in a few aged trees, and on the face of a precipitous rock, from the top of which the spectator can look down unobserved, and witness many of the curious habits of this peculiar bird. They are strictly protected from disturbance by the Earl of Moray and Sir William G. Cumming, the proprietors of the adjoining ground. Numerous flocks of wild-geese, and ducks of several species, frequent the Bay of Findhorn in the winter and spring seasons, and in severe winters swans are sometimes seen, and have been shot in the parish.

Wood.—Trees of all kinds grow well in the parish, and good specimens are to be seen of oak, ash, elm, plane, and beech. The finest oaks are on the banks of the Findhorn, at Cot-hall, and belong to Sir William G. Cumming. There is an avenue of lofty and venerable ash-trees along the turnpike road, leading to Forres from the west, which have a fine effect in approaching the town. They are said to have been planted, upwards of a century ago, by direction of Mary Sleigh, wife of Alexander Brodie, Esq. of Brodie, the Lord Lyon,—a lady whose memory is still cherished in the neighbourhood as a great improver and benefactress of the district. There are likewise some beautiful large beeches and elms near the mansion-house of Sanquar. A great part of the wood in the parish is under forty years of age, and chiefly consists of plantations of oak, larch, and Scotch fir. The most extensive of these belong to Sir William G. Cumming and Mr Fraser Tytler, and are well managed with respect to thinning and pruning.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

No ancient documents exist which throw light on the early his-

tory of this parish, but there can be no doubt that Forres was a place of considerable importance at a very remote period. Some ancient writers suppose it to have been the Varis of Ptolemy. King Duffus, when residing in the castle, was treacherously murdered by the governor in 966. We learn from some early historians, that the "gracious" King Duncan had his camp at Forres, and that it was when proceeding to join him there, that Macbeth and Banquo were met by the Weird Sisters. There is evidence extant that, at subsequent periods, this castle was occupied by our Scottish Monarchs. The writer of this has seen an original charter of some lands in the neighbourhood, granted here by Alexander II. It is not exactly known when the town first enjoyed the privileges of a royal burgh; the oldest charter now possessed by it is one *de novodamus*, granted by James IV., dated 23d June 1496, and which bears that "the ancient charters of the burgh had been destroyed by fire and other accidents, and therefore the king of new erects it into a royal burgh."

A plan of the town was published in Wood's Town Atlas, in 1825.

The town is built on a low ridge of ground, which stretches from the base of the Cloven hills, and is elevated about forty or fifty feet above the adjoining plain. The main street extends more than half-a-mile from east to west, and has declivities on each side, on which minor streets or lanes branch off and communicate with the country. The streets are well paved and lighted with gas; and the town presents, on the whole, a remarkably neat and clean appearance. In the principal street, are several handsome houses and public buildings. In the centre, is the town-house, a very beautiful edifice, completed in 1839, and built on the site of the former tolbooth. It is a Gothic structure, having a square tower on one side, with a bartizan, on which is raised another of octagonal shape, surmounted by a dome and vane. It contains a spacious court-house, and other accommodation for the Sheriff and Justice of Peace small debt courts, which are regularly held here, besides a council-chamber, a record-room, the post-office, and business apartments for the town-clerk. The tower and dome are much admired for the beauty of their proportions, and form a great ornament to the town and neighbourhood. The parish church is a large plain building, and stands on the north side of the street, near the west end. A small Episcopal chapel, the interior of which is very elegantly fitted up, was erected last year

chiefly by subscriptions from the neighbouring gentry, who principally attend it. Anderson's Academical Institution, built about twenty years ago, is a handsome building in the Grecian style, adorned with a spire and public clock ; it was endowed by the late Jonathan Anderson, Esq. of Glasgow, for the education of poor children, from the parishes of Forres, Rafford, and Kinloss. St Lawrence Mason Lodge, built from a design by Mr. Simpson of Aberdeen, is another striking ornament of the town, and includes a ball-room, supper-room, and other apartments for the meetings of the brethren.

Antiquities.—Allusion has already been made to the ancient castle or fort which existed here, as being the occasional residence of royalty. It stood at the west end of the town, on a green mound where the ridge on which the town stands abruptly terminates, and is washed at its base by the burn of Forres. Scarcely any traces of the ancient buildings now remain to indicate its extent or form, but, judging from the area of ground on the summit of the hill, it could not have been very considerable. There can be no doubt that it was originally occupied as a royal fort, to which state prisoners were brought from all parts of the north of Scotland for trial and punishment. It afterwards belonged to the Earls of Moray, probably as the delegates of royal power in the district, and from them it devolved by inheritance on the Dunbars of Westfield, who held, until a late period, the office of hereditary sheriff of Moray. This last family resided here, and the building which now exists was intended by them as part of a new structure contemplated for their accommodation, in substitution of the former castle. It is now the property of the Right Honourable the Earl of Seafield. The remarkable obelisk so generally known as the "Forres Pillar," or Sweno's Stone, although in the close vicinity of the town, is not within the limits of the parish. It may therefore suffice here to state, that it is still in tolerable preservation, although the effects of time are gradually effacing the emblematic sculpture on its surface. A correct engraving of one side of this splendid obelisk is to be found in the edition of "Shaw's History of Moray," published in 1827. In corroboration of its traditional history, that it was intended to commemorate a victory obtained by the Danes at this place, it may be mentioned, that, about thirty years ago, a number of human skeletons were dug up within a few yards of it.

Eminent Men.—Under this head, the name of Mr James Dick

is preeminently deserving of notice. Mr Dick left his native parish, early in life, and went to America, where he accumulated a large fortune, and at his death in 1828 bequeathed L. 140,000 for the benefit of the parochial schoolmasters of the counties of Moray, Banff, and Aberdeen; a sum, the interest of which gives from L. 20 to L. 30 per annum to each schoolmaster in these counties. This fund has been hitherto admirably managed by the trustees, leading members of the Society of Writers to the Signet in Edinburgh, and under the particular inspection of Allan Menzies, Esq. W. S., a gentleman eminently qualified for the important duties to which he has been appointed. It is certainly matter of surprise, that the enlightened class of persons who participate in Mr Dick's patriotic and noble generosity have as yet taken no decided steps to testify their gratitude to him, by erecting some testimonial to his memory. The inhabitants of Forres are desirous to unite with those who share so largely in his bounty, in raising some suitable monument in his native town, and where the remains of his parents and ancestors repose, to record the obligation of the country generally, and of the schoolmasters of the three counties in particular, to this great friend of education; and it is to be hoped, that, at no distant period, their wishes will be responded to by those gentlemen, to whom, perhaps, should belong the merit of originating such a measure.

The late John Gordon, Esq. M. D. of Edinburgh, was also a native of Forres, and though his sun went down at noon, it shed a lustre on the place which gave him birth and on his country, ere it set.

The family of the late Provost Duncan Grant of Forres have, by their distinguished merit and success in life, reflected honour on their native parish. The eldest son, Mr Walter Grant, died early in life in India, but not until he had earned a high reputation as a barrister. His brother, the late Lieutenant-Colonel Alexander Grant, H. E. I. C. S., was no less distinguished as a soldier than his brother was as a lawyer. His bravery was conspicuously displayed at the Battle of Assaye, to which victory he greatly contributed by his gallantry. Another brother, the late Lieutenant-Colonel Colquhoun Grant, was intrusted with the most important and confidential services by the Duke of Wellington during the Peninsular war, in which he acquitted himself under circumstances of extraordinary difficulty and danger, with remarkable courage and success. His services and merits are well described

and eulogised by Lieutenant-Colonel Napier, in his *History of the Peninsular War*. Two brothers are still living of this family, and enjoying their well-earned honours, viz. Sir James R. Grant of the Hill near Carlisle, who held the office of Principal Inspector of Hospitals, and superintended the medical department of the army in France in 1815, and Lieutenant-General Sir Lewis Grant, K.C.H., late Governor of the Island of Trinidad, and Colonel of the 96th foot. The sister of these gentlemen also connects with this parish her husband, the much respected and esteemed Sir James M^cGrigor, Bart., Director-General of the Army Medical Department.

The late John Hoyes, Esq. Speaker of the House of Assembly in the Island of Granada, should not be omitted in this list of names,—a gentleman whose warm and generous feelings were always evinced whenever opportunities occurred of rendering services to his native parish.

Land-owners.—The state of property has undergone many changes within the last fifty years. At present the chief land-owners are, William F. Tytler, Esq. of Burdyards; Major Grant Peterkin of Invererne and Grievshop; Sir William G. Cumming, Bart.; Archibald Leslie, Esq. of Balnagieth; the town of Forres; the Earl of Moray; the Earl of Seafield; Miss Smith of Waterford; ——— Gordon, Esq. of Thornhill; ——— Greig, Esq. of Lingieston; Lieutenant-Colonel Frazer of Drumduan; John Forsyth, Esq. of Springfield; and Alexander Smith, Esq. of Bogton; all of these have land worth L. 50 of yearly rent; the two first mentioned possess more than half of the parish.

Mansion-Houses.—Sanquar-House, the seat of Mr Fraser Tytler, is particularly deserving of notice. It is situated about a mile to the south of the town, amidst well-wooded and beautifully varied grounds, through which the burn winds for upwards of a mile, and expands into a small lake in front of the house. Being situated on an elevated bank, it commands a fine view of the town and rich plain below. About a mile to the north of the town is Invererne, (formerly Tannachy), a handsome building erected in 1818; it is surrounded by some thriving plantations, and attached is an excellent and productive garden, and spacious stables and farm-offices. Forres House, immediately at the east end of the town, is a large and commodious mansion; it is the property of Sir William Gordon Cumming, Bart. and was formerly the residence of the Dowager Lady Cumming Gordon, but since her death has been let

to tenants. Drumduan, situated upon an eminence about a quarter of a mile from the town to the eastward, is an elegant villa, and commands an extensive view of the surrounding country.

Parochial Registers.—Registers of births, baptisms, and marriages are regularly kept. There is a disposition, however, often shown to neglect the registration of births, merely to save the small fee of 1s. charged for registration. Few think of registering deaths and burials, and the register of these is very defective. The earliest register of births, &c. is dated May 1675. That of marriages bears the same date.

III.—POPULATION.

The population of the town and parish in 1791, as stated in the former Statistical Account, was

| | | | | | | | |
|--|-------|---|---|----------|---|------|----------------------|
| Males, | 1341, | - | - | of which | { | 2398 | resided in the town. |
| Females, | 1646, | - | - | | | 589 | country. |
| Total, | 2987, | | | | | 2987 | |
| According to the Government census, the population was | | | | | | | |
| In 1801, | - | - | - | - | - | 3114 | |
| 1811, | - | - | - | - | - | 2925 | |
| 1821, | - | - | - | - | - | 3540 | |
| 1831, | - | - | - | - | - | 3895 | |
| 1841, | - | - | - | - | - | 3720 | |
| The population in 1841, consisted of families, | - | - | - | - | - | 1023 | |
| males, | - | - | - | - | - | 1562 | |
| females, | - | - | - | - | - | 2158 | |
| In 1831 there were in the parish, families, | - | - | - | - | - | 1018 | |
| Of which were employed in agriculture, | 264 | | | | | | |
| trade, &c. | 464 | | | | | | |

According to the above returns, it would appear that the population has fluctuated considerably during the last forty years. From 1801 to 1811, a diminution seems to have taken place, which was followed, during the next ten years, by a considerable increase. This may perhaps be accounted for by the number of men who entered the army, and who were, during the war, withdrawn from the parish; many of these served in the militia regiments, which were stationed chiefly in England, and had their families along with them. The diminution in the population which has occurred during the last ten years, it is not so easy to explain, as the number of families during the same period has rather increased. The most probable solution, however, of this is, that a number of single persons have of late years emigrated to the Colonies. There are generally resident in this parish three or four families of independent fortune, although at present none of the principal heritors reside on their estates; but several of their houses are occupied by gentlemen of independent fortune as tenants. There are, be-

sides these, a few individuals and families not engaged in business, living in the town on moderate private means.

Habits and Character of the People, &c.—The great body of the people enjoy in a considerable measure the comforts and advantages of society, and are generally contented with their condition in life. They are warmly attached to their own town and parish, the beauty and amenity of which they highly appreciate, and take a zealous and lively interest in promoting every measure calculated for their embellishment and improvement. On occasions of public excitement they particularly manifest sentiments of loyalty and patriotism; and it may be truly said that Chartists, Socialists, or similar characters have met with little encouragement among them. The people are decent and orderly in their outward deportment, and are regularly observant of the public ordinances of religion. The lower orders are frugal and industrious, and have of late years much improved in habits of cleanliness both in their houses and dress. It is much to be lamented, however, that so many houses and shops for the retail of ardent spirits are permitted within the town, and if fewer existed, there can be no doubt the moral and religious character, as well as comfort and happiness of the people, would improve. It may be observed, that nothing has tended more to the demoralization of the working-classes than the frequency of fairs and markets which are held in the burgh, and particularly of the half-yearly feeding markets for agricultural servants, which have been established within the last few years. These markets are much under the control and regulation of the farmers of the district; and it is earnestly hoped that they will soon see the propriety of altering a system which has already produced but too great effects in lowering the standard of morals of our labouring classes, both male and female.

Language.—The English language is universally spoken in the parish. There are perhaps 200 individuals who speak Gaelic, chiefly old persons, natives of the Highlands, and of these one-half may understand it better than English, but their number is yearly diminishing.

There are six insane persons connected with the parish, three of whom are supported at the expense of the heritors, in well-conducted asylums, and the others are under the care of their friends. One deaf and dumb boy has been sent to an institution in Lon-

don for the education of such unfortunate children, and one blind girl has been recently sent to the Edinburgh Blind Asylum.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

There are no manufactures in Forres, but such as are required for the supply of the town and neighbourhood, and these consist in the production of the more ordinary kinds of handicraft labour. The principal trade of the shopkeepers and dealers is in the retail of all varieties of goods and wares usually required to meet the consumption of a populous agricultural district, and such is now the facility and readiness of communication, and ease of transportation of goods, that almost every article of ordinary consumption can be purchased of equal quality, and as cheaply, in this northern burgh, as in the manufacturing marts of the south.

Agriculture.—As no accurate plans exist of some of the estates in the parish, it is impossible to state precisely the extent of land it contains. The following statement, however, has been taken from certain data afforded, and may be considered as a near approximation to the truth.

| | | |
|-------------------|---|----------------------|
| Cultivated, | - | 3300 Imperial acres. |
| Uncultivated, | - | 700 |
| Under wood, about | - | 1200 |

There is at present no ground in a state of undivided common. Within the last few years, the only common in the parish, consisting of a large moor, was divided under authority of the sheriff, and a great part of it has been since enclosed and planted. Of the uncultivated land there is an extent of about 200 acres, which might be profitably converted into arable land. It consists of a high moor, belonging in property to the town corporation. Portions of it have, within the last few years, been judiciously let by the magistrates, in small allotments, on improving leases, and several of the tenants have already succeeded in raising luxuriant crops in places, which, until of late, presented a very barren and rugged appearance.

The cultivated land is chiefly divided into farms varying in size from 20 to 150 acres: but there is also a considerable extent of ground immediately adjacent to the town, occupied in small tenements under ten acres. These are held by various classes of persons in the burgh, who engage in a limited way in agricultural pursuits.

The larger farms are generally held on leases, the usual duration of which is nineteen years, although shorter leases are also

common. The farm-houses and steadings in the parish are, almost without exception, good and commodious ; many of them have been recently erected, and are well arranged, and substantial stone buildings roofed with slates. To most of them are attached thrashing machines driven by horses, and on one farm there is a machine of this kind worked by a steam-engine.

Husbandry.—The most usual rotation of crops is, 1st, turnips and potatoes or fallow ; 2d, wheat and barley ; 3d, grass, part of which is made into hay ; 4th, grass pastured ; 5th, wheat or barley, and oats ; 6th, oats. In the smaller farms, the same regularity of cropping is not observed, and particularly in the parks near the town, where the facility of obtaining and applying manure render the ordinary rotation unnecessary.

Cattle.—There are no particular breeds of cattle or sheep peculiar to the parish, nor indeed to the county. Many of the farmers change their live-stock annually. In the end of the season, they purchase animals (most frequently oxen, brought from the northern counties), which they dispose of in the following spring or summer to drovers from the south. In the farms nearest to the town, cows are chiefly kept, as being more profitable, from the constant demand which exists for all dairy produce.

Rent.—The rent of land varies greatly, according to its situation and quality. Near the town, L. 4 and L.5 are commonly paid for good land per Scotch acre ; and for the best land in the more distant parts from L. 2, 10s. to L.3 are obtained ; while in other parts, where the soil is of an inferior quality, the rent is as low as L. 1. The valued rent of the parish is L. 2954, 6s. 6d. ; the real land rent amounts to about L. 6000, and the annual value of real property in the town to nearly L. 1800.

Fishing.—There is a valuable salmon-fishing on the Findhorn, within the parish, which has been managed for many years for the behoof of the proprietors, Messrs Forbes and Co. of Aberdeen. It has fluctuated much in value of late years, and was greatly injured by the flood of 1829 ; but it is understood that, during the last two or three seasons, it has again improved.

Quarry.—There is a limestone quarry on the farm of Mundole, belonging to Sir William G. Cumming, where kilns are in constant operation, and lime is sold, but chiefly to the proprietor's own tenants.

Mills.—There are flour and meal-mills on the burn of Forres, which are kept in full employment, and where considerable quan-

tities of grain are ground annually. The Messrs Urquhart have a powerful saw-mill, where timber is sawn into deals, spars, &c. Of late, they have prepared a quantity of wood-pavement, cut into small hexagonal blocks, for the streets of London. There is a brewery, and also a distillery in the close neighbourhood of the town.

Produce.—The value of the average annual produce of the parish, so far as can be ascertained, may be stated as follows :

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| Grain and straw, | L. 10,000 |
| Potatoes, turnips, &c. | 3,500 |
| Grass, | 4,000 |
| Salmon-fishing, | 500 |
| Wood, | 200 |
| Gardens, | 100 |

| | |
|------------------|------------------|
| Total, | <u>L. 18,300</u> |
|------------------|------------------|

Wages.—The rates of wages for agricultural servants are, for males, from L. 9 to L. 12 per annum, besides food, for which an allowance is often given of six bolls of meal, besides a quantity of potatoes. Females receive from L. 4 to L. 5 and their victuals. The wages of day-labourers vary from 1s. 6d. to 2s. per day ; carpenters receive from 2s. to 2s. 6d. ; and masons, 2s. 6d. and 3s.

An agricultural society was instituted about ten years ago, which holds several meetings annually in the town, and of which most of the farmers in this as well as the adjoining parishes are members. Cattle-shows take place every summer, in the month of July, under their auspices, at which premiums are awarded to the exhibitors of the best animals of each class of stock,—and the good effects resulting from the establishment of the society have already become apparent in the increased anxiety and enterprise of the farmers to procure improved breeds of stock of all kinds.

Horticultural Society.—No branch of rural economy has received more encouragement in the parish of late years, than gardening. A horticultural society was established a few years ago, under the patronage of the Earl of Moray and several of the neighbouring gentlemen, with the view of exciting more general attention to the cultivation of garden produce. Two exhibitions of fruits, flowers, and vegetables take place annually under the auspices of the Society, in June and September, at which prizes are awarded for the best specimens. The institution has hitherto been very successfully managed ; the flower-shows have been pleasingly and tastefully conducted, and have been generally attended by a numerous and gay assemblage of company from all parts of the county.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.*

Town.—It has already been stated that Forres is not a place of manufacturing importance, and that the employments of the people consist in the ordinary trades of retail and handicraft. Since the Reform Act, the town has been governed by a provost, three bailies, a dean of guild, a treasurer, and twelve councillors—a proportion of whom are annually elected by the constituency of the burgh. The revenue of the town is about L. 550,—and is derived from lands, feu-duties, petty customs, &c.

There are daily markets for butcher-meat and fish ; twice a week for butter, eggs, poultry, &c. ; and grain markets on every Tuesday. Fairs are held on the first Wednesday of January, third Wednesdays of February, April, and May ; first Wednesday of July ; fourth Wednesdays of August and September ; and third Wednesday of November. Besides these, feeding markets for agricultural servants take place on the Saturdays preceding the terms of Whitsundays and Martinmas.

Means of Communication.—The most ample means are enjoyed by the inhabitants of communicating with other parts of the country. The turnpike road from Aberdeen to Inverness passes through the town, on which a mail-coach and two stage coaches travel daily. There is likewise a turnpike road to Findhorn, five miles off, where the London and Leith steam-boats call regularly. The parish is intersected in all directions by district roads, which are kept in excellent order. There are four stone bridges on the burn, within the limits of the parish, all of which are in good repair ; and where the turnpike road crosses the river Findhorn, at the western extremity of the parish, is a chain-bridge, which merits more particular notice, as it forms one of the greatest ornaments of the county, and, although not so large as some others, is certainly one of the most elegant structures of the kind in Scotland. It was erected in 1831, to replace the former stone bridge at the same place, which was destroyed by the great flood of 1829, and when completed was opened to the public with a grand ceremonial procession early in 1832. The design was afforded by Sir Samuel Brown, R. N. the celebrated engineer, who contracted to supply the iron work, and the work was superintended by his able assistant, Mr Mitchell. Beautiful Gothic archways, which form the entrance to the bridge at either end, are flanked on each side by finely proportioned towers, built of a beautiful light coloured free-

* The contents of this head chiefly communicated by the Rev. Duncan Grant.

stone, on which rest the massive chains from which the platform is suspended. The whole work was admirably executed, and reflects great credit on the workmen employed. The expense of the building amounted to nearly L. 7000, which was principally subscribed by the spirited and enterprising inhabitants of Forres, aided by the land-owners of the neighbourhood. A pontage is exacted, under authority of an Act of Parliament, for the privilege of passing the bridge, and affords a remunerating revenue to those who have advanced their money for this noble and useful structure.

Ecclesiastical State.—The parish church is conveniently situated ; it was built in 1775, and was partially repaired and painted about three years ago, when an additional gallery was put up by the heritors, which accommodates nearly 100 sitters. The whole church is seated to accommodate about 1000 persons, and that number usually attend divine service. About 600 of the sittings are let, and the rents are paid to the heritors. The parishioners have lighted the church with gas at their own expense, for the convenience of those who attend divine service, and the Sabbath schools, in the evenings. It is in tolerable repair, but is far from being a suitable church for the parish in size, convenience, comfort, or ornament. The manse was built in 1818 ; it has not undergone any material repair since it was built, and is at present in need of considerable improvement. The glebe is about five and a-half Scotch acres in extent, and would bring a rent of L. 25 a year if let. The stipend is eighteen chalders, half meal and half barley, payable at the county fair prices.

There are no chapels of ease or Government churches in the parish connected with the Established Church, but there are three Dissenting chapels, one of which is connected with the United Associate Synod of the Secession Church, another belongs to the Independents, and the third to the Scotch Episcopal Church. The first of these is attended by a large congregation, amounting to several hundred persons, but of these a considerable proportion come from the neighbouring parishes. The Independents are not a numerous body, and there are only a very few families of Episcopalian residents in the parish. The ministers of these chapels are paid by the seat rents and Sabbath-day collections of their hearers. There is no place of worship for Roman Catholics in the parish.

There are two services in the parish church every Lord's day, and on some occasions three. The number of communicants be-

longing to the Established Church in the parish is about 340; non-parishioners who communicate, about 320.

Collections and contributions are regularly made for the religious and educational schemes of the church, amounting to from L. 26 to L. 30 a-year, being somewhat more than L. 5 annually for each of these important religious institutions.

Education.—There are six schools in the parish for the education of boys, taught by male teachers, four of which are associated in the academy, or Anderson's Academical Institution. The teachers of three of these being the parochial schoolmasters, receive salaries from the funds of the burgh; the fourth, a charity school, for educating poor children of the parishes of Forres, Rafford, and Kinloss, is endowed by funds left by the late Jonathan Anderson, Esq. of Glasgow. The other two schools are supported by the fees and contributions of the scholars. There are two boarding-schools for young ladies, having four teachers, neither of which is endowed; and there are two other females who teach a few children, and receive small salaries from the burgh funds, besides fees.

At the academy, including the free school, the branches of education taught are, the English, French, Latin, and Greek languages, writing, arithmetic, mathematics, English grammar, geography, history, and drawing. In the boarding-schools are taught all the common branches of female education, such as the English, French, and Italian languages, English reading, grammar, history, geography, writing, arithmetic, music, drawing, and all kinds of needle-work. Sacred biography, and history, together with an acquaintance with the principles, doctrines, and duties of Christianity, are taught in all the male and female schools, and several of the teachers, both male and female, assist in the Sabbath evening school taught in the parish church, which is commonly attended by from 200 to 300 children.

When the last minute examination was made into the numbers of children attending the schools of Forres, it was found, that 644 were then receiving education, of which number 379 were boys, and 265 girls. About the same number, and in the same proportion, of boys and girls are attending the different schools at present, which is perhaps as high a proportion relatively to the population as is to be found in any other parish in the country.

Literature.—A Subscription Library was established about forty years ago, which contains a tolerably good collection of books, principally in the departments of history, travels, periodicals, &c. which

are given out for perusal to the contributors of a small annual sum. It is managed by a president and small board of directors.

A newspaper, entitled the *Forres Gazette*, was established about six years ago, and is still published on the first Wednesday of each month.

Charitable and other Institutions.—A Ladies' Charitable Society has existed for many years, and has been productive of much good. The benevolent zeal of many of its members in visiting and relieving the distressed objects of their charity, is most conspicuous, nor are their unremitting exertions in contributing and collecting funds to meet their disbursements less praiseworthy. A cholera hospital was built in 1832, but happily it has never been found necessary to use it for its intended purpose. It has been fitted up as a temporary prison. A dispensary was established a few years ago for providing medicines for the poorer classes; it is superintended by the medical gentlemen of the place in monthly rotation, who give their professional services gratuitously to the poor. A saving bank has been in operation for a good many years, and is in a prosperous state. There are also several Trades and Friendly Societies of old dates in the town.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The average number of persons receiving parochial aid is nearly 200, and the average sum given to each is L.1, 6s. 6d. annually, or 6d. weekly, which includes the price of two barrels of coals to each.

The funds at the disposal of the session for the last year were derived from the following sources :

| | | | | |
|--|---|------|----|---|
| Collections at the parish church, | - | L.80 | 10 | 0 |
| Interest of money belonging to the poor, | - | 12 | 0 | 0 |
| Dick's bequest in money, | - | 20 | 0 | 0 |
| Do. coals, | - | 50 | 0 | 0 |
| Rent of lands for poor, called mortified fund, | - | 20 | 0 | 0 |
| Bequest by the late John Hoyes, Esq. | - | 22 | 10 | 0 |
| From the heritors, | - | 60 | 0 | 0 |
| <hr/> | | | | |
| L.265 0 0 | | | | |

It has been already stated, that the heritors also support three pauper lunatics, at an expense of from L.40 to L.50 annually. There is little disposition on the part of the poor to refrain from seeking parochial relief, and the feelings of independence and honest shame, by which they were wont to be influenced on this subject, are fast giving way, and contrary dispositions taking their place. It may be observed that this burgh, being in the heart of a rich and well cultivated district, many labourers and farm-ser-

vants, when unfit to support themselves as in their youthful days, seek a residence in the town, there being few places in the country parts where they can be accommodated. This has been long felt as a great evil, and will continue to operate until the proprietors of small cheap houses in the town are in some way obliged to feel that they are increasing their own burdens, by encouraging poor decayed persons to come to occupy their miserable abodes. A great proportion of the poor are from other parishes; many from the Highland districts.

Prison.—The old jail having been pulled down about four years ago to make way for the erection of the present town-house, there is no regular prison at present in the burgh. The only place of that kind is a building in the outskirts of the town, used temporarily as a place of confinement. It is understood that the General Prison Board have resolved that there shall be no jail in the town for civil debtors or criminals incarcerated for any lengthened period, and that these shall be sent to the county jail in Elgin. They have determined, however, to build a lock-up house, containing a few cells, for the temporary imprisonment of offenders.

Inns, &c.—The number of houses licensed for the sale of ale and spirits in the town and parish is very great; and there can be no doubt that it might be much reduced with great advantage to the morals and habits of the people.

Fuel.—The principal fuel used is coal, chiefly brought from Newcastle, and conveyed in carts from the neighbouring sea-port of Findhorn; including the land-carriage, it may be purchased for from 2s. 4d. to 2s. 6d. per barrel. Peats and turf are also brought weekly to the town in small carts, by the peasants from the adjoining hilly parishes, but they are not much used, and are found equally expensive as coal.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

This parish has fully kept pace with other districts of the country in the general improvements which have taken place, during the last fifty years. A very superior system of agriculture is now generally adopted to what formerly existed. Much more attention is now paid to cleaning and draining land, and a greater regularity is observed in the rotation of crops. Improved breeds of horses and cattle have been introduced into the parish, and the farmers are more characterized and stimulated by a desire of improvement, and evince a greater readiness than their predecessors

to adopt changes which are likely to prove beneficial. Large tracts of ground in the parish which, thirty years ago, were bare moors, are now covered with thriving plantations, or have been subjected to the plough; but it may be remarked, that, while the land rent is at present nearly double of what it was at the date of the former Statistical Account, it may be doubted whether the wealth of the community is increased, or the commerce and trade of the town extended. The greatest changes have occurred in the public improvements of the town, and in the altered habits, tastes, and manners of the people.

During the last thirty years the streets of the town have been newly paved, lighted with gas, and embellished by the erection of a number of handsome buildings. In 1793, there was only one small bridge in the parish, and the passage across the Findhorn was made in a ferry boat, which often proved dangerous. There are now four excellent stone-bridges on the burn, and an elegant chain-bridge across the river. In 1806, no public conveyances passed through the parish; now a mail-coach and two stage-coaches pass daily. It were very desirable if we could add, that the improvement in the morals and religious feelings of the people was commensurate with their increased social advantages; but it is to be feared, that the tendencies of luxurious enjoyment are more adverse than conducive to good morals and religion.

February 1842.

PARISH OF EDENKILLIE.

PRESBYTERY OF FORRES, SYNOD OF MORAY.

THE REV. PETER FARRIES, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name, Boundaries, &c.—The ancient Gaelic name of this parish was Aodincoillie, which signifies *the face of the wood*. This appellation, there can be no doubt, it derived from its general aspect; for while it contained two-thirds of the royal forest of Darnaway, and the whole of the royal forest of Drummie, the quantities of oak, fir, hazel, &c. which are still dug up in the peat-mosses, afford reason to believe, that the greater part, if not the whole of the parish, was covered with wood. This parish is not

unfrequently called Brae-Moray, which is descriptive of its acclivity from the low grounds of Moray, near Forres, on the north, to the range of hills to which it extends, and which divides it from Knockando and Cromdale, on the south. The form of the parish is irregular; its greatest length from north to south is about thirteen miles; its greatest breadth from east to west about seven; and it contains about fifty square miles. It is bounded on the north by the parish of Dyke, and a narrow portion of Rafford, which separates it from Forres; on the north-east and east by Rafford and Dallas; on the south by Knockando and Cromdale; and on the west by Ardelach, Auldearn, and Dyke.

Topographical Appearances.—In its general surface, this parish is hilly, but not mountainous. The greatest eminence is the Knock of Brae-Moray, which is a hill near the southern extremity of the parish, of a round form, with a ridge sloping to the north-west, and from its summit, which is about 1000 feet above the level of the sea, it commands very varied and extensive views. The whole of this part of the parish, extending several miles in breadth, from Ardelach on the west, all along its southern and eastern boundaries, is bleak and moorish, diversified by a few small farms, or rather parts of farms, which are under tillage, or were formerly under tillage, but now form parts of sheep-walks. From about a mile below the Knock, the western side of the parish, comprehending fully one-half of its mean breadth, and extending to its northern extremity on the left bank of the Findhorn, within a mile of the elegant suspension bridge over that river, on the toll-road from Inverness to Aberdeen, is for the most part under cultivation, or covered with wood. From many points, the views of this part of the parish are extremely beautiful. The picturesque scenery of the pleasure grounds of Relugas, the beautiful valleys of Dunphail, Logie, Sluie, and St John, on the banks of the Divie and the Findhorn, with the wood of almost endless variety, which rises from the gently sloping or precipitous banks of these rivers, and the finely cultivated fields on all sides of the grounds above, interspersed with clumps of trees of various forms and dimensions, present landscapes for richness and beauty, not often to be met with, and to which a considerable extent of the Moray Frith, which comes within the range of some of them, not a little contributes.

Climate.—The climate is very different in the two opposite extremities of north and south of this parish, even beyond, perhaps,

what usually occurs in a similar elevation and distance from the sea. Surrounded by extensive plantations, under the most approved system of farming, within the influence of the mellowing breeze from the Moray Frith, and with an elevation not exceeding 100 feet above it, the district in the vicinity of Darnaway Castle, (one of the seats of the Earl of Moray) and comprehending two-thirds of his Lordship's domain lands there, and one-third of the extensive nursery grounds and gardens, the atmosphere is remarkably dry, mild, and salubrious. But leaving the forestry, and ascending towards the southern extremity of the parish, the difference of climate is very perceptible. Here, from the entire destitution of wood, and from its proximity to the lofty mountains on the south-west, which are yet not so near as to afford shelter from the prevailing boisterous winds which blow from that direction, the air is sharp and cold; the winter is often severe and of long continuance; the snow is frequently found covering the whole surface to the depth of several inches, and the frost considerably intense, when the plough is in active operation on the lower grounds. On the latter, the grain seed-sowing and harvest are often on the eve of being finished, when here they are only beginning. At an average, there may be a difference of three weeks between them. More rain, too, falls here than on the low grounds of Morayshire, and, consequently, the old proverb, "that Morayland enjoys forty days more of fair weather, and fifteen days more of summer, than any other part of the nation," must be taken with especial limitation, as respects the more remote and elevated districts of this parish. The air, however, is healthful, and no peculiar diseases are known to the inhabitants of any part of it. In 1834, when cholera was raging throughout the whole length and breadth of the land, and when it committed such fearful devastation in Inverness, about twenty-four miles distant, and proved fatal to several of the inhabitants of Nairn, only seven miles off, it deserves to be recorded, with feelings of gratitude, that not a single case of infection occurred in this parish; nor even, what is more remarkable, as being the only county in Scotland completely exempted from it, in any parish in Morayshire. There have been many instances in this parish of extraordinary longevity. Within the last twelve years, twenty-two individuals were residing in it at the same time, above eighty years of age, four of whom were ninety-three, one ninety-five, and one ninety-six. When the census was taken on the 7th June 1841, there were seventeen individuals who were each upwards of eighty years of age.

*Soils.**—Those of the arable land are as follows :

Division of Soils of the Arable Land of Edenkillie.—

1. A small extent of brown-coloured loamy soil.
Subsoil, clay and red mortar.
2. A considerable extent of sharp black soil.
Subsoil, partly mortar, sand, and dry gravel.
3. A considerable extent of light, dry, sandy, and gravelly soil.
Subsoil, sand and dry gravel.
4. Moss.
Subsoil, generally white sand and clay.

Lands under Wood.—

5. A considerable extent of brown-coloured gravelly soil.
Subsoil, red mortar and gravel,—under very thriving oak.
6. A considerable extent of light clay soil, with a great mixture of sand.
Subsoil, gravel, mortar, and clay—under very thriving oak and larch.
7. A great extent of light sandy soil.
Subsoil, sand and open dry gravel—under Scotch fir, larch, and oak, all generally thriving.
8. A great extent of moorish soil.
Subsoil, gravel and white sand—under Scotch fir and larch, all thriving.
9. Wet moorish soil.
Subsoil, retentive, clay, and close gravel—under Scotch fir and larch, all stunted, and in a backward state.†

Hydrography.—The parish abounds with springs of the purest and finest water, but none of a medicinal quality, deserving of notice, have been hitherto discovered. The rivers are the Findhorn,

* The writer has to acknowledge his obligation for the following account of soils to an intelligent and respectable farmer in this parish.

† No. 1 is to be found on the farm of Redstone, and a small extent on Dounduff.

2. On Newton, Berryley, Connicavel, Cuperhill, Dounduff, part of Gervally, part of Logie, part of Glenernie, East Tullyglens, the greater part of Dunphail estate, Half daugh, and part of the Knock lands.

3. The high land of Dounduff, the greater part of the properties of Sluice, Logie, and Relugas, West Tullyglens, and part of the Knock lands.

4. On Relugas, Broadshaw, and Half daugh.

5. Part of Darnaway forest opposite Sluice, and part of Dounduff oak plantation.

6. On the sloping banks on both sides of the Divie, Roughbog plantation on Logie and part of Dounduff plantation.

7. Part of Darnaway forest near the gate of Dounduff, the greater part of the woods of Relugas, and part of Logie at Toremore.

8. Part of Darnaway forest, Logie, and Sluice.

9. Part of Relugas plantation on the hill, and hill plantation of Tullyglens.

the Divie, and the Dorback. Of these the principal is the Findhorn, which “rises from a wide morass covering the flat summit of a mountain in the midst of the *Monad-leadh* group” in Inverness-shire, “and runs” north-east “through a direct line of country not less than sixty miles, its sinuosities being about thirty more,” and discharges itself into the Moray Frith, about three miles below Forres. This river, in its course, runs through Edenkillie about seven miles, dividing the Darnaway district, which contains nearly one-sixth of its population, from the rest of the parish. The Divie has its origin in the hills which have been noticed as forming part of the southern boundary of the parish, and, with its windings, runs about nine miles in a north-westerly direction, when it joins the Findhorn. The Dorback flows from the lake Lochendorb, also forming a part of the southern boundary of the parish, and situated about midway betwixt the source of the Divie, and where the Findhorn enters this parish. Like the Divie, it has the whole of its course within the parish, which is about seven miles, when it unites with and loses its name in that river, about three-fourths of a mile below the church, and three miles from its junction with the Findhorn. The Divie and the Dorback are but of small dimensions, yet the former, for an extent of several miles, especially after being united with the latter, may almost vie with the Findhorn in the wildness, variety, and picturesque description of its scenery; nor after extraordinary falls of rain can the depth and force of its current be regarded but with mingled emotions of admiration and alarm. Its capability of doing mischief has been often felt; one striking instance of which has been well described by the accomplished and talented author of the “Account of the Great Floods in the Province of Moray in August 1829.” The scenery on the Findhorn in its course through this parish, particularly deserving of notice, and not inferior to any perhaps throughout its whole course, commences at *Rannoch* or Randolph’s Bridge, about a quarter of a mile above where the Findhorn is joined by the Divie, and about an equal distance on the east from the house of Relugas. From this place, for five or six miles down the stream, the scenery is truly magnificent, comprehending all the varieties of the wild, the grand, and the picturesque. Some of the finest views of that splendid scenery are obtained from various points of the very extensive and beautiful pleasure-walks, which were lately planned with great taste by the Honourable John Stuart, and are now in course of being finished—leading from the castle of Dar-

naway through the forest, and extending for several miles along the verge of the left bank of the Findhorn.

Heronry.—The banks of the Findhorn below Sluie are rendered remarkable by an extensive heronry which has existed there for generations. Some large and ancient oaks growing on the western side of the river are covered with the nests of this beautiful bird, and a few are lodged in the high and perpendicular cliffs of sandstone that tower over its stream on the eastern side. It is extremely interesting to watch the movements of these creatures when they are congregated here for the purpose of breeding; and the conflict which is waged with them by the jackdaws who are continually endeavouring furtively to possess themselves of their eggs the moment they quit their nests, is often extremely amusing.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Land-owners.—The principal land-owner is the Earl of Moray. The other heritors, taken in the order corresponding with the value of their estates, are, Charles Lennox Cumming Bruce, Esq. of Roseisle and Kinnaird, M. P. for the county; Mrs Cumming of Logie; Sir William G. G. Cumming of Altyre and Gordonstone, Bart.; and William Mackilligin, Esq., who purchased the property of Relugas from Sir Thomas Dick Lauder of Grange and Fountainhall, Bart., in 1836. Only two of the heritors at present reside in the parish, viz. Mr Cumming Bruce and Mr Mackilligin.

Parochial Registers.—These consist of six volumes: 1. contains acts of church discipline, from 3d January 1649 to 3d January 1676, and registers of baptisms and marriages from 1702 to 1733; 2. Church discipline and collections for the poor from 1702 to 1720; 3. Church discipline and collections for the poor from 1720 to 1764; 4. Register of baptisms from 1733 to 1810, and matrimonial contracts from 1741 to 1826, there being an interval in the latter from 1765 to 1783; 5. Church discipline and collections, and distributions to the poor from 1764 to 1841; 6. Register of births and baptisms from 1810, and matrimonial contracts from 1827 to 1841. From the above, several intervals appear to have occurred, in which no insertions were made in the registers of church discipline and matrimonial contracts since these began to be kept in this parish; and the registers of births and baptisms, with only one or two brief periods of exception, seem to have been very irregularly kept, till about thirty years ago.

Antiquities.—The Castle of Lochindorb, though a little beyond the boundary line which divides Edenkillie from Cromdale, yet

being situated on an island of a lake of that name, part of which is within this parish, and in the last Statistical Account, as well as in other records, having been treated of as belonging to it, some notice of it may be here expected. The remains of this castle occupy a space of about eighty square yards, and bear marks of having been a place of great strength. In 1303, Edward I. of England took possession of it on his way to Inverness, and on his return resided here for some time, where, and at Kinloss, he received the submission of the northern parts of the kingdom. In 1336, it was the residence of Catherine de Beaumont, widow of David de Hastings, Earl of Atholl, and “other ladyis that were lovely,” when it was blockaded by Sir Andrew Moray, (successor in the Regency of Scotland to Douglas, who was killed at Halidon Hill,) but who, on the approach of Edward III. with a chosen body of his army, retreated to his castle at Darnaway. Of that retreat of Sir Andrew Moray’s, Sir Walter Scott, in a letter to Sir Thomas Dick Lauder, as stated in a note of that gentleman’s work already referred to, says, that it was one of the finest actions of the period, and most characteristic of Scottish generalship. The only farther authentic information we have of the Castle of Lochindorb is, that it was left garrisoned by Edward, —was the place of imprisonment and death of the celebrated William Bullock, a favourite of David Bruce, in 1342,—that it passed from the Earl of Moray into the hands of Campbell of Cawdor in 1606, and has been for at least a century past the property of the Earl of Seafield.

The *Castle of Duniphail* is also a fortress of considerable antiquity, though little can be learned either from history or tradition respecting it. Its ruins occupy a considerable space of the summit of a steep conical hill, only accessible by one side, with a deep narrow ravine, of a very romantic description, encompassing three-fourths of its base, which is supposed to have been, in ancient times, the channel of the Divie, though its present course is 60 feet lower, and 150 yards to the west. After the battle of “The Lost Standard,” the castle was besieged by Randolph Earl of Moray, the first Regent of Scotland during the minority of David Bruce, and gallantly defended by Cumin, the proprietor. In the course of that siege, some incidents occurred characteristic at once of the bravery and barbarity of the age. Allastair Bane, son of Cumin, and a man who had distinguished himself by extraordinary deeds of valour, being no longer able to cope with the enemy in

open combat, after the dreadful slaughter of his followers in the engagement above alluded to, had recourse to ambuscade and stratagem to harass the besieging party, and to supply his father's garrison with provision. At length the place of his concealment was discovered, which was a deep cavern in a wild narrow glen, called Slaginnan, Gallicè *Slochh-nan-cean*, about half a mile from the castle, when he was taken by surprise and murdered. His head was then cut off and thrown into the fortress, with this terrible taunt to the old man, "Your son has provided you with meal, and we now send you flesh to eat with it." "It is a bitter morsel, indeed," said the veteran warrior, as he took it up, kissed it, and wept over it, "but I will gnaw the last bone of it before I surrender!" The castle and estate of Dunphail some time afterwards became the property of Mr Dunbar, and now belongs to Mr Cumming Bruce.

The *Doune Hill of Relugas* is described in the last Statistical Account as follows:—"It seems to be a fortress of still greater antiquity," viz. than the Castle of Lochindorb, "and used as such far beyond the period of authentic history. It appears to have been a place of strength, to which the inhabitants of the country retired, with their cattle, upon the invasion of the Danes, to which this country of Moray was so frequently exposed. It is a conical hill, round a considerable part of which runs the rapid river of Divie, in a deep rocky channel; and, when not defended by the river, it is encircled by a deep fosse or ditch, with a strong rampart on the outside, mostly composed of stones, some of which have the appearance of vitrification." It is probable that, in the early history of the country, the Doune of Relugas was one link of a chain of signal stations used for the purpose of communicating by fires up the twin glens of the Findhorn and Divie. The Romans also seem to have occupied it at one time, for Sir Thomas Dick Lauder, by digging, found some fragments of Roman pottery on the summit of it, which are still in his possession. They were supposed to have had a line of posts from Forres to Brae Mar, and thence to Perth, and this was unquestionably one of them; and in this very line, and at no great distance, a spear and two bronze hatchets were found on the property of Sluie, which are likewise in the possession of Sir Thomas.

Modern Buildings.—The mansion-house of Dunphail, which is an elegant edifice, and has been described as one of the happiest

efforts of Mr Playfair's classical taste, was built in 1829. A considerable addition is now in course of being made, which, when completed, will greatly increase the accommodation, without, perhaps, detracting from the effect of the original structure. It stands on a terrace about 130 yards from the Divie, and 26 feet above it. From its south-west front, the eye, after passing over the intervening lawn, naturally glides along the beautifully wooded western bank of that river, and through the vale of the Dorbach, till the view is terminated by the summit of the Knock. About 170 yards from its north-east front rises the nearer of two tiers of terraces, at the northern extremity of the higher and more distant of which is the hill on whose summit the old castle stands, and which appears over the tops of the intervening trees and shrubberies, and between the wood of the adjacent banks, "majestic in ruins." On the higher of these terraces, which stretches from the southern base of the castle-hill, is the garden, which is most tastefully and elegantly laid out, as are the whole of the flower-plots and shrubberies which ornament that beautiful valley. The dreadful ravages committed there by the floods of 1829 have been amply repaired; and, from the immense strength of the embankments which have been made, no encroachments of the river in that quarter, at least beyond the flat fields on its right bank, may any longer be apprehended.

The House of Relugas was considerably enlarged and improved, about fourteen years ago, by an addition consisting of a very handsome suite of apartments, 96 feet in length, with an arched vestibule projecting from the centre. The house presents a most beautiful picturesque appearance from various directions, and admirably harmonizes with the delightfully romantic scenery of its pleasure-grounds, and the surrounding country.

The mansion-house of Logie stands at the northern extremity of the valley of that name, on the right bank of the Findhorn; but no alterations have been made on it, deserving of notice, since the last Statistical Account was published.

A very handsome shooting lodge, consisting of eight apartments, belonging to the Honourable John Stuart, and generally occupied by him and other members of the Noble family of Moray for several weeks of the shooting season, was erected three or four years ago at the north-west base of the Knock, on the right bank of the Dorbach, and about three miles above its junction with the Divie.

III.—POPULATION.

| | | |
|---|---|------|
| The population according to the return made by Dr Webster was | - | 1443 |
| By the last Statistical Account, | - | 1800 |
| census of 1801, | - | 1123 |
| 1811, | - | 1215 |
| 1821, | - | 1233 |
| 1831, | - | 1300 |
| 1841, | - | 1234 |

By the writer of the last Statistical Account of this parish, published in 1793, the great increase of the population to that period from 1775, is ascribed to “a good deal of the waste land in the remoter parts of the parish having been lately brought into culture by families settling in these wilder parts.” The subsequent much greater decrease from 1793 to 1801, amounting to more than a third part of the whole population, at the former of these periods, appears to have been owing to the extension of farms, and the consequent removal not only of many of the former tenants and their families, but also of the cottagers and their families, who had been very numerous on some of the properties before these changes were effected. The apparent increase again from 1821 to 1831, may be accounted for from a number of masons and labourers employed in building bridges, and in making the new line of road from Pitnisk to Dava, and other improvements that were then going on in the parish, who did not properly belong to it; but were included in the census taken at the latter of these periods.

| | |
|--|-----|
| Number of families in the parish, | 287 |
| chiefly employed in agriculture, | 126 |
| trade, manufactures, or handicraft, | 39 |
| in none of these occupations, | 122 |
| Number of males in the parish, | 582 |
| females, | 652 |
| unmarried men, bachelors, or widowers, upwards of 50 years of age, | 28 |
| women, including widows, upwards of 45 years of age, | 93 |
| The average number of births yearly for the last seven years, | 32 |
| marriages, | 9 |
| The number of persons at present under 15 years of age, | 471 |
| upwards of 70, | 54 |
| Number of insane, 2; of blind, 3. | |

Character and Habits of the People.—The practice of illegal distillation, which prevailed to a considerable extent within the last twenty years, amongst the minor tenants of the upper districts of the parish, was attended with all its usual pernicious effects on the inhabitants. Since their means of support, and of paying their rents from that source, have entirely ceased, a manifest improvement has taken place, both with respect to their pecuniary circumstances and moral character. A due attention to their

farms, which were formerly neglected, has more than compensated for any pecuniary loss that might at first be sustained by the suppression of smuggling; and instances of intemperance and open profanation of the Sabbath, are now of rare occurrence. A great improvement has also taken place in their attendance on religious ordinances. The practice of announcing sales, &c. by a crier, in the church-yard, upon the congregation retiring from church, has been quite discontinued; and there have not been more than two instances of funerals on Sabbath for the last five years.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture and Rural Economy.—

| | |
|---|--------|
| The number of acres, standard imperial measure, which are either cultivated or occasionally in tillage, | 3,331 |
| The number of acres that never have been cultivated, supposed to be about | 25,000 |
| acres in a state of undivided common, | 0 |
| acres under wood, | 4,700 |

More than one-half of the land under wood belongs to the Earl of Moray; two-thirds of the forest of Darnaway, as has been already stated, being in this parish, which consists of oak, ash, beech, elm, sycamore, Spanish chestnut, larch, spruce-fir, Scotch fir, mountain-ash, poplars, birches, gean-trees, hollies, alders, &c. In the course of the last twelve years, a large quantity of the wood which had arrived at maturity in the forest has been cut down, and the vacant ground has been filled up by young plantations, consisting chiefly of oak, to the number of about 100,000 annually, on which all due care is bestowed in the way of draining, pruning, and fencing. The young plants are raised from seed on the nursery grounds at Darnaway. At three years old, they are planted out in pits previously prepared by mixing a small quantity of lime with the earth in the bottom, which is said to promote their growth, so as to make as much progress the first year as they generally do in two years, when planted in the usual way. The proportion of the other properties under wood is nearly as follows: Dunphail, 800 acres; Logie, 573; Altyre, 400; Relugas, 547. The Scotch firs are greatly improved in quality, and their growth promoted, by procuring the seed from the natural wood grown in Strathspey.

Rent of Land.—The average rent of land under cultivation is about 16s. per annum the imperial acre.

Breed of Live-Stock.—The black-cattle reared are chiefly of the Highland breed; but about 100 two years old, of a larger

size, are purchased in autumn, fed upon turnip, and sold the following summer to cattle-dealers, who purchase them for the southern markets. The sheep, consisting of about 2500, are of the black-faced kind, with the exception of about 250 of the Cheviot breed, which are purchased in September, and fattened upon turnip for the butcher, or partly fed with turnip, and sold with their lambs the succeeding year.

Fishings.—There is a considerable salmon-fishing within the parish, at Sluie, upon the Findhorn, the property of the Earl of Moray. Four men are employed there to fish, with a boat and draught nets, the Sluie pool, and two other pools near to it, with two or three more, considerably farther down the river. Before salmon-fishing nearer the sea was so well understood as it is now, the fishing at Sluie was of great celebrity. It appears by a letter dated 7th June 1648, from the Earl of Moray to his Countess, that “in one night, on the Pool of Sluie alone, 1300 salmon were taken; and at one draught, six-and-twenty scores.” About thirty-six years ago, 360 salmon were caught in the same pool on one day. But the number now taken, in all the pools connected with the net-fishing there, does not average above 700 yearly. It is let to Messrs Hogarth and Co. at an yearly rent of L.50, the right of angling being reserved to himself by the Noble proprietor, which some years ago was let by the Company at L.20 per annum. At the Ess, or fall, which is about six feet in height, and half a mile above Sluie, a man is employed by the Company to fish with an instrument here called a *clip*, which has a handle ten feet in length, and two or three crooked prongs. The man placing himself upon a rock immediately below the fall, and holding his clip about six inches under water, and eight or ten inches from the rock where he is seated, watches the opportunity of the fish being driven to the water’s edge by the force of the fall, and by a sudden jerk with his instrument, seldom fails to place it on the rock beside him.

The Findhorn affords excellent sport to anglers, both of salmon and trout. A considerable variety of the latter kind of fish is caught in the Divie and Dorbach, especially after falls of rain.

Produce.—The average amount and value of gross produce, yearly raised in the parish, may be nearly as follows:

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|-------------------------|-----|----|----|-----------|------|-----|----|---|
| Oats, | 1257 imperial acres, at | L.3 | 10 | 0 | per acre, | L.43 | 99 | 10 | 0 |
| Barley, | 181 | do. | 5 | 0 | 0 | do. | 905 | 0 | 0 |
| Wheat, | 125 | do. | 6 | 10 | 0 | do. | 812 | 10 | 0 |
| Pease, | 35 | do. | 3 | 0 | 0 | do. | 105 | 0 | 0 |

| | | | | | | | |
|--|------------------------|------|----|-------------|-----------|----|---|
| Potatoes, | 172 Imperial acres, at | L. 5 | 0 | 0 per acre, | L. 860 | 0 | 0 |
| Turnips, | 236 do. | 3 | 10 | 0 do. | 826 | 10 | 0 |
| Rye-grass hay, | 417 do. | 3 | 0 | 0 do. | 1251 | 0 | 0 |
| Grass in pasture, | 908 do. | 1 | 0 | 0 do. | 908 | 0 | 0 |
| 2500 sheep, grazed at 3s. per sheep, | - | - | - | - | 375 | 0 | 0 |
| Annual thinnings and fellings of wood, | - | - | - | - | 1700 | 0 | 0 |
| Fishing, | - | - | - | - | 50 | 0 | 0 |
| <hr/> | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | L. 12,192 | 10 | 0 |

Husbandry.—When the last Statistical Account was published, farming seems to have been in a very backward state in this parish. Since then, hundreds of acres of land, which had been lying waste and useless, have been brought under cultivation, with an ample return of profit; and the land previously in culture, by means of draining, cleaning, the application of lime, and a regular rotation of cropping, has been rendered, in many instances, worth more than double its former value. Lime, of which little or none had been used at the former period, is now had recourse to almost universally. It is procured from Cothall limekilns, the property of Sir William G. G. Cumming, Bart., in the parish of Forres, about six miles distant from the centre of this parish; or from the sea-port of Findhorn, about fourteen miles off, where it is imported from England. About seventeen bolls are generally given to the imperial acre, which are supposed to be fully equal in the effects it produces on the land here, to a third more on the low grounds of Morayshire nearer the sea.

The commencement of agricultural improvements in the upper districts may be dated from about the beginning of the present century, when Mr Alexander Wilson, late tenant at Gervally, was brought from Berwickshire by Mr Cumin of Regulas to this parish. His merits as an agriculturist have been recognized in a manner which must have been highly gratifying to his surviving family, as it was honourable to themselves, by five extensive and most respectable proprietors, who erected a marble tablet to his memory in the churchyard of Edenkillie, where his remains were deposited, in order, as the inscription on it bears, “to mark the sense they entertain of his zeal and fidelity in the management and improvement of the estates in this neighbourhood.”

While the spirit of improvement, of late years, has been evinced in a greater or less degree on all the properties, it is no more than justice to state, that the improvements, both of an useful and ornamental kind, which have been making on Dunphail, the property of Mr Cumming Bruce, especially on that part of it, of which

there is a considerable portion now in his own hands, hold a distinguished place. Much waste land has been reclaimed, and more in course of being so. The most approved system of farming has been adopted. Fields have been enclosed, generally with sunk fences faced with stone, along the tops of which are planted rows of forest trees, or hedge-rows of thorn or beech.

The mode of drying land by wedge drains, according to the plan recommended by Mr Smith of Deanston, has been practised to a very considerable extent; and the subsoil-plough, which Mr Cumming Bruce introduced two years ago, promises to form another era in the improvement of agriculture in this parish.

Manufactures.—There are three corn-mills in the parish, viz. the Dunphail, the Logie, and Half-davoch. The Dunphail mills include an oat-mill, one for barley, one for sawing timber, a thrashing-mill, and till lately there was a carding-mill, all under the same roof, and wrought by the same stream of water.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Markets, Means of Communication, &c.—The nearest market-town is Forres, at the distance of eight miles and three-quarters from the parish church. Nairn is fourteen miles, and Grantowir thirteen miles, from the same place. At Forres, is also the nearest post-office; but runners carrying the mail bag betwixt Forres and Grantown, which is conveyed in a gig from the latter place to Aviemore, one of the stages on the Highland road from Inverness to Perth, pass twice a day along the road extending throughout the whole length of the parish on the east of the river Findhorn. Several carriers pass weekly along the same road. The turnpike road within the parish on the above line, nine miles of which were made about ten years ago, is eleven miles in length; and three more by the old route from Forres to Grantown. From the turnpike road, about half a mile above the church, there is a parish road by the bridge of Dalt-lich, across the Findhorn, and through the forest of Darnaway, to the toll-road between Inverness and Aberdeen. Besides these, from ten to twelve miles of roads have been made by Sir William Cumming on his property within the parish; which, with roads of several miles in length made by Mr Cumming Bruce, afford excellent means of communication to almost every part of the parish. There are three toll-bars within the parish; but travellers passing along the whole length of the toll-road pay only at two of them.

Bridges.—By the floods of 1829, two substantial stone bridges

over the Divie and the Dorbach, about sixty yards above their junction, were swept completely away. These devastations, however, were, in 1831, fully remedied by a very handsome bridge built across the Divie, near the church, on the new turupike road; and by one built at the same time over the Dorbach, in a very romantic situation, about half a mile above where the old one stood, on the parish road already mentioned, by the bridge of Dalt-lich. Both of these bridges have their arches built of granite, and springing from rocks on each side.

Ecclesiastical State.—The church is situated on the right bank of the Divie, not, as is marked on almost every map the writer has seen, to the east of the Knock, but two miles nearly due north of it; and is as central and convenient as might be for the general population, though at the distance of nine and a-half miles from one extremity of the parish. It was built in 1741, was new seated, and underwent some other improvements in 1813. Though comfortable enough within, it is of a very mean exterior, and much requires that something should be done at once to preserve the building, and to improve its appearance. It is seated to contain 500 persons, which is sufficient for the population, especially as those residing in the Darnaway, or Conicaval district, from their great distance, are unable regularly to attend their parish church. The number of communicants in the parish is about 140, sixty of whom are male heads of families; and from twenty to thirty from other parishes, join them in partaking of the ordinance of the supper, at its annual dispensation in the parish.

The manse was built in 1823. It is a neat and handsome-looking building, in the cottage style, and in good repair. It is supplied with excellent water, conveyed by leaden pipes from a spring 160 yards distant; and which cost the last incumbent upwards of L. 40. The glebe, including the garden, shrubberies, and the site of the manse, and offices, contains ten imperial acres, and is worth L. 12 per annum. The stipend is L.123, 6s. 10d.; 46 bolls, 2 pecks, $\frac{1}{2}$ lippie of barley; 4 bolls, 1 firloft, 2 pecks, $\frac{1}{2}$ lippie of oatmeal; 1 firloft, 1 lippie of oats, according to the old measure of the county. The average annual amount of money and victual stipend is about L. 185.

The number of families in the parish belonging to the Established church is, 269; number of Seceding or Dissenting families, 17; Episcopalian, 1. With the exception of only two of the families in the parish belonging to Seceding or Dissenting congregations, there

is none of their houses within less than seven and a-half miles from the parish church. Their places of worship are Forres, and Bog-hole in the parish of Auldearn.

Education.—There are five schools in the parish, exclusive of five Sabbath schools, viz. the parochial school; one at Conicaval, and one at Tullydivie, both of which are supported by the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge: one female school at Half-davoch, on the property of Sir William Cumming, who allows to the teacher a salary of L.5 per annum; and one female school at the Knock, on the teacher's own adventure. The parish school, and the schools supported by the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge, are each attended by about 100 scholars in the course of the year. The number present at all the schools, at the annual examination by the presbytery last spring, was as follows: parochial school, 60; Conicaval, 60; Tullydivie, 54; Half-davoch, 36; the Knock, 30. About one-half of the number of scholars attending the school at Conicaval is from the parish of Dyke; and about 8 from Rafford of those attending the school at Half-davoch. The salary of the parish schoolmaster is the maximum, L. 34, 4s. 4½d.: the school fees amount to about L.16 per annum; and the Trustees of the late Mr Dick's bequest to the parochial teachers of the counties of Aberdeen, Banff, and Moray, have allowed to the schoolmaster of this parish, for the present year, L. 38, 5s. 1d., which allowance may be expected to be continued so long as the teacher shall act in conformity to the regulations, and merit the approbation of the trustees.

Library.—There is a parish library consisting of 160 volumes, chiefly of religious works. It is supported by a contribution of 1s. per annum from each of the subscribers, of whom there are at present about 40.

Savings Bank.—A savings bank was instituted here last year, in connection with the Forres and Nairn Savings Bank; and, from the manner in which a considerable number have already availed themselves of it, it promises to be highly useful.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The regular number on the poor's list is about 34, and the number who receive occasional aid is about

* From the last Statistical Account it appears that there is a claim for three schools in this parish from the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge, in consequence of a donation by Dr Cumin, son of James Cumin, Esq. of Relugas. This gentleman was physician to King William III. at the battle of the Boyne, in 1690. In 1714, he sent the sum of L.261, 13s. 7d. Sterling to the Society, with a recommendation that they should keep always three schools in this parish.

8. The church collections for the poor, for the last seven years, have averaged about L.29; which, along with donations from the heritors of about L. 10 per annum, (after deducting L. 4, 10s. to the session-clerk, precentor, and beadle), are distributed regularly, three times a year, by the kirk-session, according to the comparative degrees of need of the applicants, and varying from 12s. to L.1, 7s. per annum to each. These sums are very inadequate as means of efficient relief. But the deficiency is in a good measure supplied by the beneficence of the heritors to the poor on their respective properties; of which an excellent example is set by the Earl of Moray, who allows to a considerable number one peck of meal each, or 1s. per week. Several aged and infirm individuals on the property of Mr Cumming Bruce are not only supplied with soup, twice a-week, from the kitchen at Dunphail, but have also, along with others, meal regularly, and occasionally blankets and clothing, bestowed on them by him and his lady. The poor on the estate of Logie still continue to be remembered by the proprietress and her family, though now residing at a distance from the parish, with all their characteristic liberality and kindness. Nor would it be proper to omit to notice in this statement of good offices to the poor, the readiness of the people themselves to contribute to the aid of the necessitous, whether residing in their immediate neighbourhood, or when application is made to them from other quarters. In the course of the severe winter preceding last, unaided by any of the heritors, save a small contribution from one of them, they raised among themselves in meal and money about L. 17 for behoof of the poor of the parish. The collections in church in aid of the schemes recommended by the General Assembly average from L. 6 to L. 7 annually.

Inns.—There are two small inns in the parish for the accommodation of travellers. To these there can be no objections when used only for their proper purpose. But it is matter of regret, for obvious reasons, that toll-keepers should be allowed to convert their houses into dram-shops.

Fuel.—The fuel generally used is peat, of which a plentiful supply, in favourable seasons, is obtained from the mosses in different parts of the parish. Coals are brought from the sea-port of Findhorn, where they are imported from England.

February 1842.

PARISH OF DOLLAS OR DALLAS.

PRESBYTERY OF FORRES, SYNOD OF MORAY.

THE REV. WILLIAM TULLOCH, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name, &c.—THE name of this parish is derived from two Gaelic words, *dale*, a vale or plain, and *uis*, contracted from *uisge*, water.

The parish was formerly a parsonage, dedicated to St Michael, and the seat of the sub-dean. Sir William Gordon Gordon Cumming of Altyre and Gordonston, Baronet, is patron. Upon the annexation of Altyre part of this parish to the parish of Rafford, Easter Kelles, (church lands, for above an hundred years the heritage of Farquharson of Kelles, a family now extinct), was annexed to this parish in 1657; and the disjunction and annexation were ratified in Parliament in 1661.

The barony of Dallas had been long the property of Cumming of Altyre, before it was sold to Sir Ludovick Gordon of Gordonston, in the end of the last century; but the Cummings of Altyre have again become heirs to it.

Extent and Boundaries.—This parish is, in shape, like an oblate spheroid. It is about 15 miles long, and 9 in breadth. It is bounded on the south-east and east, by Rothes and Birnie; on the north-east and north, by Elgin; on the north-west and west, by Rafford and Edenkillie; and on the south-west and south, by Knockando.

Topographical Appearances.—The parish is considerably diversified with rising grounds, and beautiful straths lying between the hills, the principal of which runs through the length of the parish along the river. These hills are in general highly cultivated, and yield rich and luxuriant crops. They are nearly all covered with heath, and in many places the banks of the river are skirted with alder wood, the bark of which many of the people use for dyeing black. The hill of Melundy, the property of Sir William G. Gordon Cumming, has been lately replanted with silver-fir, spruce-fir, larch, and birch; and part of the hill of Wangie,

the property of Sir William G. Gordon Cumming is also covered with natural oak, and the rest of it he lately planted with fir and larch.

There is another thriving plantation of fir and larch joining that of Melundy, on the estate of Craigmill, the property of James William Grant, Esq. of Elches, and formerly of the Cummines, who sold it to the Grants about the year 1752. There are, besides, several small plantations in the parish.

Meteorology.—The climate may, in general, be considered very healthy; the inhabitants have seldom been visited by any epidemic; but, as the parish is more elevated than the lower parts of Moray, it is much colder, frequently the harvest being nearly completed in the low country, before it is well begun here. The south wind, which is the most prevalent, blows down the vale with great fury, for the greater part of winter and spring, often tearing up trees by the root. The north side of the strath is much warmer than any other part of the parish, and is sheltered by the surrounding hills from the north wind.

Hydrography.—The parish is supplied with many excellent springs of different qualities, some of which are strongly impregnated with iron. There is an excellent spring, which passes through gravel and rock of a very soft nature, which had been a favourite well, and dedicated to St Michael, the patron saint of the parish.

There are several lochs in the parish, the principal of which are, Loch Dallas, Loch Noir, or Grass Loch, Loch Trevie, which is the source of the Lossie, and the Loch of Rheninver; in all of which, there is abundance of excellent trout.

There are small burns rising among the hills, all of which are tributary to the Lossie. The principal of these are, the Black Burn, the Dorrall, the Burn of Auchness, the Burn of Auldnachuirn, or Cart Burn, so called on account of the people of the country making their carts of the wood which grows on its banks, the Burn of Alderg, or Red Burn, so called because the water is coloured with a red kind of clay, through which it passes; the Burn of Auldnacnish, or Fir Burn; and the Burn of Glen Latterach, or Angry Burn. The latter, which, in time of rain, is very impetuous, divides Birnie from Dallas. On it, there is a beautiful waterfall, called the Fess of Glen Latterach, which has a grand appearance when the burn is swollen. It rises among the hills, about two miles above the fall. It dashes over a precipice

about fifty feet in height, and falls into a basin, which the country people call the Kettle ; a little farther down it falls into another basin, which they call the Pot. The rocks surrounding it are stupendous, rising almost perpendicular to more than 100 feet in height. Nothing is wanting but trees hanging over their summits to render the scene sublime. There is another beautiful little cascade, on the Burn of Auchness.

The Lossie, the only river in the parish, rises in Loch Trevie, about eight miles above the church, and meanders along the whole length of the parish, when, at the north-east end, it dashes over a rock thirty feet high ; it is surrounded by scenery at once the most enchanting and grand, and after passing through the parishes of Birnie, Elgin, and Drainie, flows into the Moray Frith at the sea-port town of Lossiemouth.

Geology and Mineralogy.—In this parish, there are several species of rock, the principal of which are granite, felspar, mica, sandstone, slate, and gravel. The variety of the soil is considerable along the banks of the river ; it generally consists of light loam on a gravelly bottom,—higher up, of a black soil and a till bottom ; and towards the southern extremity of the parish, it chiefly consists of moor and moss, in the latter of which there are found fir-roots, and trees of an immense size, several feet deep, some of which have been burnt, the charcoal remaining fresh to this day. There are several freestone and grey slate quarries of a very good quality in this parish.

Zoology.—The extensive range of moor affords excellent shelter for game ; the principal kinds of which are black-cock (*T. tetrix*), woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola*), moor-cock, wild-duck (*Anas boschas*), pheasant (*Phasianus Colchicus*). There are a great variety of other kinds of birds, among which may be mentioned the swallow, the sparrow (*Fringilla domestica*), the sparrow-hawk (*F. nisus*), the hooded-crow (*C. cornix*), the rook (*Corvus frugilegus*), the raven, the magpie (*C. Pica*), the owl (*Strix*), the wood and tame pigeon (*Columba Palumbus*, and *C. Livia*), the corn-crake (*Gallinula crex*), and the sea-gull (*Larus canus*), which comes annually from the sea coast to hatch in the lochs before-mentioned.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Land-owners.—There are three heritors, all having lands in other parishes, viz. Sir William G. Gordon Cumming of Altyre, Bart., the Earl of Fife, and James William Grant, Esq. of Wester Elches.

Antiquities.—A castle, of which the ruins remain, and which is named the Castle of Dallas, or Torcastle, was built by Sir Thomas Cumming of Altyre, anno 1400. It was formerly the stronghold of the Cummings, the ancestors of the present proprietor. It is situated on a plain at the foot of the hill of the Wangie, on the side of the Dorral burn, about a mile from the church, on the north bank of the Lossie. The vestiges of out-works and a moat are still to be seen. In the centre of the church-yard, there still remains entire a cross, where the people were once accustomed to hold their markets on Sunday. It is twelve feet high, consisting of one stone set on a stone pedestal, about three feet and a half square, and its capital a fleur-de-lis. The stone weather-beaten effigy of St Michael, mentioned in the last Statistical Account, now lies in a mutilated state at the foot of the cross. There is also a large oblong stone at the east end of the parish, which stands on the site of an old Roman Catholic chapel and burying-ground.

III.—POPULATION.

| | |
|--|------|
| In the year 1770, the population amounted to | 700 |
| 1778, | 917 |
| 1788, | 888 |
| 1811, | 871 |
| 1831, | 1153 |
| 1841, | 1179 |

The greater part of the population are employed as farmers, crofters, labourers, and farm-servants. There are also masons, weavers, blacksmiths, carpenters, grain-millers, carding-millers, tailors, shoemakers, cartwrights, sawyers, fleshers, merchants, &c. Not many years ago, the Gaelic language was spoken by the whole people of the parish, and most of the places still retain Gaelic names. There are not, however, now above twelve persons in the parish who understand that language. A very great change has taken place in the dress of the common people: all the females, with very few exceptions, wear bonnets now, whereas twenty years ago, only about three were to be seen in church. The males were accustomed to appear in church with clothes made of homespun grey; but now, the most of them are provided with a suit of broad-cloth, for kirk and market.

The parishioners of Dallas are exceedingly kind and hospitable. They are also most industrious and persevering. The waste lands given them gratis for a limited number of years, are in a short time turned from barren moor into fertile fields.

Smuggling, which so greatly prevailed throughout the whole

parish, is now entirely suppressed ; and the effects of the change are very remarkable on the manners, comforts, and happiness of the people.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Rent of Land.—The average rent of land is from L.1, 10s. to L.2 per acre, and the duration of leases nineteen years.

Wages, &c.—The farm men-servants receive half yearly from L.4 to L.6 ; women from L.1, 10s. to L.2 ; day-labourers, 1s. 4d. ; women, 6d. per day, with victuals ; masons, 2s. 6d. ; carpenters, 2s. 4d. ; tailors, 1s. 4d. with victuals ; for cutting peats, men receive 1s. 4d., and women 8d. per day, with victuals.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Market-Towns.—There are no market-towns within the parish ; the nearest are Forres and Elgin, the former nine miles from the centre of the parish, and the latter twelve.

There is only one small village in the parish ; it is situated on the north bank of the Lossie, distant from the church about two furlongs. It was feued about forty-three years ago by Sir Alexander Penrose Cumming. It contains thirty-two houses.

Means of Communication.—As there is no post-office in the parish, the letters to the east district, called Kelles, are left at Elgin ; and those to the west district, at Forres. The county roads to Elgin and Forres are in good repair. Many of the other roads however, are in a bad condition. There is a new road now formed called “the Knockando road.” It extends from Forres to the Spey, and will be of the greatest advantage to those tenants who inhabit the more hilly districts of the parish, where there is no road save the one alluded to.

The flood of 1829 carried away the only bridge then in parish : it was upon the Lossie ; and the want of it, when the river is swollen, (which is very often the case,) prevents nearly one-third of the population from attending church ; but there is a bridge of three arches to be built immediately upon the Lossie, a little below the church.

Ecclesiastical State.—The church of Dallas, the only place of worship in the parish, is situated very near the centre of the parish. It is distant from the nearest boundary about four miles and a half, and from the farthest, six. It was built in 1794, but was never finished nor taken off the workman’s hands. The walls are neither plastered, nor the roof ceiled, and it is therefore in a very uncomfortable condition. It accommodates only 400 sitters, and a

loft is required for 200 more. The sittings in the church are all free, and divided among the tenants ; but, as the villagers are not included, a loft was fitted up for their accommodation by Sir William G. G. Cumming ; but it is not sufficient to hold one-third of them. The manse, which was built in 1783, is situated a little to the north-west of the church, at the top of a beautifully inclined plain sloping towards the Lossie. It is in very bad repair, and, owing to the miserable state of the interior, a new one is required immediately. The extent of the glebe, including the garden and lawn before the house, is about ten acres : its value about L. 12. The whole of the stipend, including money for communion elements, amounts to L.158, 6s. 8d. all paid in money, part of which is derived from the vicarage of Auldearn parish

The Protestant ministers of the parish were the following : Mr William Thomson, reader in Dollas, anno 1567. John Clark, reader in Altyre and Dollas, anno 1567. William Paterson, minister and sub-dean, anno 1574. Alexander Richardson, minister in 1611 and 1617. George Cumming, ordained about 1624, died in summer 1648. James Strachan, ordained in winter 1649, died in October 1671. Alexander Cumming, ordained June 13, 1672, demitted in 1681 for the test. George Dunbar, ordained 13th October 1681, transported to Nairn in 1687. Thomas Urquhart, privately ordained, was admitted 11th January 1688, and died about 1706. John Crockat, ordained 9th May 1708, died 22d April 1748. Robert Dalrymple, ordained 23d February 1749, deposed in May 1763. James Hay, ordained 27th September 1763, died 20th October 1777. David Milne, admitted 7th July 1778, translated to Edenkillie 27th June 1793. Richard Rose, admitted 1st May 1794, translated to Drainie 23d July 1816. Francis William Grant, admitted 26th September 1816, translated to Banff 16th December 1821. William Tulloch, admitted 11th April 1822.

The whole population, with very few exceptions, is connected with the Established Church. Public worship is, in general, well attended. About 400 or 500 attend every Sabbath, except when the river cannot be forded. There are 170 communicants, of whom 70 are male heads of families, all well affected to the Established Church. As a proof of this, it may be observed, that petitions were sent to both Houses of Parliament, signed by above 200 male inhabitants of the parish, praying for the support and extension of the Church of Scotland. The sacrament of the

Lord's Supper is regularly dispensed once a year; and diets of catechising for the old and young are held in the spring of the year.

Education.—There are four schools in the parish, viz. a parochial school, an endowed school, and two female unendowed schools. The salary of the parochial schoolmaster is L. 34, 4s. 4½d. : he has also a share of the Dick bequest, which amounts to L. 28, 3s. 3d., and about L. 12 of school-fees; which in all amount to L. 74, 7s. 7½d. Sterling. The parochial school-house has lately undergone great repairs; and an elegant class-room on a new plan has been built separate from the dwelling-house, to accommodate more than an hundred scholars. The endowed school is situated in the east end of the parish, on the lands of the Earl of Fife, for behoof of the children on his estate. The schoolmaster has L. 3 per annum, a free house, and garden. Latin is not taught in it. In the female schools are taught reading, knitting, and sewing. The fees in these schools amount only to L. 5 or L. 6 per annum. There is also a Sabbath school in the parish, which is well attended.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—There are at present 24 poor on the roll; but none of them depend altogether upon the collections. The distribution of the funds takes place twice a year. The amount of collections from January 1839 to January 1840, was L. 16, 14s. 6d. Sterling.

Inns.—There are three public-houses in the village, and one in Kelles. One would be quite sufficient in the village.

Fuel.—The people use very little coals, on account of the inexhaustible fund of moss which is in the parish.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

Since the last Statistical Account was published, very great changes have taken place in the parish; the most striking of which are, the erection of the village; the improvement of the roads leading to Forres, Elgin, and Knockando; the attention paid to the cultivation of the land and the rearing of cattle; the quantity of moorland taken in; and a decided improvement in the moral and religious habits of the people, since the suppression of smuggling.

February 1842.

PARISH OF KINLOSS.

PRESBYTERY OF FORRES, SYNOD OF MORAY.

THE REV. WILLIAM ROBERTSON, A. M. MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name and Boundaries.—TRADITION bears, that Duff Mac Malcolm, King of Scotland, having been assassinated in the Castle of Forres, his body was for a short time concealed under a bridge in this parish, and its name, as if commemorating this tragical event, is by the less educated classes in the surrounding districts written not unfrequently *Kingloss*. There is every reason to disbelieve this legend of the twelfth century. The name seems to be a compound of the two Celtic* words *cean-loch*, pronounced Kinloch, the form in which it actually appears in a charter of endowment of lands granted to the abbey by King William, and which accurately points out its locality, the abbey being situated at the head of the bay. The parish is bounded on the north, by the Moray frith; on the south, by the parishes of Rafford and Forres; on the west, by the river Findhorn; and on the east, by the parish of Alves.

Topographical Appearances.—In figure it is nearly square, the side between three and four miles in extent. Viewed at its southern boundary, on the turnpike road leading from Aberdeen to Inverness, about three miles east of Forres, where the land is somewhat elevated, it has a flat champaign appearance, offering little of a picturesque description, but a great deal on which the eye of the philanthropist may look with satisfaction. The first object that attracts notice is Grangehall, with its thriving plantations. Then are seen the ruins of the abbey, the church and manse of modern date, and Seapark House with its policies. Fertile well cultivated fields, studded with farm-houses, adapted, some of them for the accommodation of genteel families, and all neat and comfortable, appear on every side; whilst in the back ground, Findhorn displays its

* Moray, the name of the county, is itself of Celtic derivation—*Mur-thaobh*, the sea-coast.

masts, with the commercial flag waving in the breeze; and the ocean rolls its waters into a bay, at full tide, more than seven miles in circumference. The scene altogether suggests the idea of health, peace, and plenty.

The line of coast, which extends east about four miles, is uniformly low, excepting the mounds of drifted sand, which extend along, and often change their position by the action of the wind and tide. Behind these sandy hillocks, runs a bleak bank of coarse shingle, about one-fourth of a mile broad. That the land once projected out where the bar now is, cannot be doubted; but being low, as well as loose and pliable, it is not at all surprising that it should have yielded to the impetuosity of the sea, which, although now more effectually opposed by this gravelly ridge, presents as much as ever the appearance of an ambitious adversary still aiming at new conquests. In proof of this, it may be mentioned, that the present town of Findhorn is the third that has borne the name. The first stood about a mile west of the bar, the point at which the river originally had its confluence with the Frith, until those *tumuli* called the Sandy Hills, by whatever impulse set in motion, drove it, in their progress eastward, into the channel it now occupies. The founders of the second took up a position a little to the north of the present village, where they doubtless imagined it would be safe; but in the course of time, the advancing ocean reached their habitations also, and swept them into its watery bed. Nor is the existing town free from the risk of being overtaken, partially at least, by a similar catastrophe. The little space that intervenes between tide-mark and the north end, is a broken bank of sand, that drifts dreadfully with every hurricane, covering the streets and gardens to the depth sometimes of eight or ten feet: and this constitutes but a feeble bulwark against the tremendous surf that beats with a north-easterly swell; so that if means be not taken to give it a solid surface, either by laying it over with turf, or planting it with bent, there is reason to apprehend that it will by and bye be blown away altogether, leaving Findhorn that now is to share at some future period the fate of its predecessors.

Hydrography.—The only river in the parish is the Findhorn or Erne, which, taking its rise in the mountains near Badenoch, and winding through the counties of Inverness and Nairn by a course of about sixty miles from south-west to north-east, amid some of the most romantic scenery in Scotland, especially after its entrance

into Morayshire, falls at length here into the Moray Frith. It abounds with salmon and trout, and affords excellent sport to the angler. There is also a rivulet or burn, called the Burn of Kinloss, which flows due east and west, and divides the parish into almost equal parts. Receiving at the east end of the parish two tributary streams, and fed in its progress by numerous drains, it occasionally swells to a considerable size, and empties itself into the bay of Findhorn, a little below the parish church.

*Meteorology.**—The mean density of the atmosphere is found to be 29.595; the mean temperature in the shade 48.6; the mean monthly depth of rain 2.006 inches. For about one-third part of the year, the south-west wind blows; to which circumstance is to be ascribed the superior mildness of the air in Morayshire, during the summer and autumn. In the end of autumn, and for the most part of winter, either a north-west wind prevails, increasing often to a tempest, with cold rain, sleet, or snow, or a north wind, which is always cold, generally fair, but occasionally accompanied by heavy rain. The most unpleasant weather in all the year is about the end of spring and beginning of summer, when a keen easterly wind continues for weeks in succession. In this particular locality, when the wind blows either from the north or east, in winter or spring, it is intensely cold, and, on the other hand, in summer and autumn it is uncommonly sultry and hot. The transition also from heat to cold and from cold to heat is not only frequent but sometimes sudden. Yet the climate is remarkably healthy, and the inhabitants live in general to an advanced age. Pulmonary complaints and rheumatism are not unfrequent.

Geology.—There is considerable diversity of soil in the parish,—clay, loam, sand, and moss; but a rich fertile loam is its prevailing character, particularly in the lowest part of the valley, and towards the gently rising acclivity of its southern boundary, where alluvial deposits from the higher lands of the surrounding district settle down. Clayey loam abounds chiefly in the east end of the parish, deep black loam in the centre, about the precincts of the abbey, and light, sharp, sandy loam northward in the direction of the sea. The average depth of the soil is from eighteen inches to three feet, resting on a subsoil, sometimes of yellow or blue clay, but, for the most part, of red or white sand. Below the sand

* The substance of this part of the article is taken from a meteorological journal kept at the Elgin Institution for 1835.

is found, in some places, a stratum of gravel, and betwixt them, at the depth of eight or ten feet from the surface, a bed of shells, proving almost to demonstration, that, at a remote period, the sea must have overflowed the land that is now cultivated. The proportion of peat earth or moss is not very great, being limited to a few acres on each side of the turnpike leading to Forres, immediately below the plantations of Grange. The subsoil, as elsewhere, is principally sand. The soil, in general, is capable, under good management, of producing plentifully every species of crop, and the abbey lands especially are considered equal in quality to any in Morayshire.

Zoology.—In this department, there is little variety. Hares, partridges, and rabbits are the only game that abounds in the parish. The wild-duck is occasionally found along the shores. Weasels are numerous. The fox has not been seen for some years; but he had, not long ago, his lodgement in the wood of Blackstob. Salmon, which abound, are allowed to go up to the spawning ground at the beginning of August. They deposit their spawn about October, and return to the sea in November. The only shell-fish that are found, are mussels and cockles. The former are used for fish-bait more than food, and are bought by the fishermen at a high price from the proprietor or his tenant. The latter are gathered free, and sold by those who gather them in the country and towns around.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

At the downfall of the Roman Catholic hierarchy, when the religious houses were dissolved, Mr Edward Bruce of Clackmannan got the lands belonging to Kinloss Abbey, the only one in the province of Moray, *in commendam*, and was created Baron Kinloss in 1601, and his son, Thomas, Earl of Elgin, and Baron Bruce of Kinloss, 1633. By him the lands and feu-duties were sold to Brodie of Lethen.

Land-owners.—The present proprietors with their respective valuations and rentals are,

| | | |
|---|----|--------|
| H. A. J. Munro, Esq. of Novar, | . | L.2000 |
| Sir J. P. Grant of Rothiemurchus, Bart. | | 280 |
| Sir G. M'Pherson Grant of Ballindalloch, Bart., | | 360 |
| Major P. Grant Peterkin of Grange, | - | 1100 |
| J. Campbell Brodie, Esq. of Lethen, | - | 450 |
| John Dunbar, Esq. of Seapark, | .. | 50 |
| Real rental, | - | L.4240 |

Parochial Registers.—The parochial registers were carried away

prior to 1699, but since that period, minute-book, marriage and baptism registers have been regularly kept, and there has also been a register of deaths kept since 1st January 1826.

Mansion-houses.—The only resident heritor is Major Grant Peterkin. Grangehall, his seat, already alluded to, is an elegant, commodious, and substantial mansion, of a quadrangular shape, built in the modern style of architecture. The lobby is exceedingly spacious and handsome, and all the rooms correspond in size and comfort. Seapark, the residence of John Dunbar, Esq., has lately had great improvements made on it, by additions, enclosures, and planting, and the arrangements, both inside and outside, display great judgment and taste.

Antiquities.—Of these the ruins of the Abbey alone are important or interesting. It was founded by King David I., December 19th 1150, and confirmed by a papal bull 1174. It was liberally endowed. Shaw, in his history of Moray, mentions, that in 1561 the revenues were L.1152, 1s. Scots—47 chalders, 11 bolls, 1 firloft, 3 pecks, bear and meal; 10 bolls 3 firlofts, oats; 34 wedders, 41 geese, 60 capons, 125 poultry. The fragments that remain of the church, with its aisles, and the chapter-house, as well as the monastery, clearly shew that the buildings must have been originally splendid and extensive. Edward I. resided here for six weeks in the autumn of the year 1303, and a detachment of his army remained for a longer period. Little, however, is now to be seen of the former magnificence and grandeur of the edifice. In the year 1652, the walls were broken down and the stones sold to Cromwell's soldiers to build the citadel of Inverness. Since then, violent hands have committed depredations on it at various times, and in fact, it has formed a quarry for almost all the old houses and granaries in the neighbourhood. Still, notwithstanding these attacks, the side and gable walls of the abbacy stood entire until they were within these few years past recklessly levelled to the ground, and disposed of for building dikes. Not one stone would have been left on another to mark the spot, had not the trustee on the estate, a gentleman of antiquarian taste and attainments, interdicted the spoliation, and caused the east gable, that narrowly escaped destruction, to be propped by a buttress of mason-work; and there it stands, the sad and solitary fragment of a mansion, wherein the mitred abbot once held his sumptuous banquets, and even princes were his guests.

III.—POPULATION.

| | |
|----------------------------|------|
| In 1755 the population was | 1191 |
| 1797, | 1031 |
| 1801, | 917 |
| 1811, | 1052 |
| 1821, | 1071 |
| 1831, | 1121 |
| 1841, | 1202 |

In the country part of the parish, the population has been rather on the decline.

| | |
|---|----|
| The yearly average of births for the last seven years, is | 29 |
| deaths, | 13 |
| marriages, | 6 |

Character of the People.—The peasantry are intelligent, sober, and industrious, although the practice, which has become so universal, of hiring servants at markets, is found to be producing deteriorating effects on morals. The fishing people are here a distinct race, distinguished eminently, the female sex more especially for their great civility, sobriety, cleanness, and proper behaviour in every respect. Instances of thoughtlessness and improvidence may be met with, and then misery and want will be met with, too, as inseparable concomitants; but the careful and the temperate live contented and happy, having abundance of the necessities and a few even of the luxuries of life, in neat, well-furnished, and comfortable cabins. Taken as a body, the inhabitants, both seafaring and landward, respect religious ordinances, and regularly attend on them, and when they come out on the Sabbath, dressed in their best attire, the very respectable appearance and devout manner they exhibit, seldom fail to attract the notice of a stranger. It is to be hoped too, that whilst, with very few exceptions, they have all the form of godliness, many of them are blest by the experience of its power.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.—

| | |
|---|-------------|
| The parish consists of 5065 acres standard imperial measure, and of these are cultivated, or occasionally in tillage, | 2850 acres. |
| Constantly waste, | 200 |
| An undivided common, | 1765 |
| Planted, | 250 |

The planted wood consists of Scots fir, larch, birch, and oak. No natural wood grows in the parish. The average rent of arable land is L. 1, 8s. 6d. per imperial acre. Farm-labourers have in summer 1s. 6d. a-day of wages, and in winter 1s. 3d.; other labourers earn from 1s. 6d. to 2s. per day, and tradesmen from 2s. to 3s.

Produce.—The average amount of raw produce raised in the parish is as follows:

| Imperial Acres. | Quarters. | Total. | Price. | |
|--|----------------|--------|----------|---------------|
| 995 grass, | | | | |
| 640 barley, | 4 per acre, | 2560 | L.1 10 0 | L.3840 0 0 |
| 358 wheat, | 3 do. | 1050 | 2 11 6 | 2703 15 0 |
| 510 oats, | 3½ do. | 1785 | 1 2 6 | 2007 7 10 |
| 130 potatoes, | 18 bolls. | 2340 | 0 10 0 | 1170 0 0 |
| 227 turnips, | | | 4 0 0 | 908 0 0 |
| 100 ryegrass hay, | 150 stones, | 15000 | 0 1 0 | 750 0 0 |
| 50 pease, | 3 qrs. per ac. | 150 | 1 16 6 | 273 15 0 |
| 42 milk cows reared annually, worth each L.8, | | | | 336 0 0 |
| 174 cows yield dairy produce, each L.3, | | | | 522 0 0 |
| 89 fat cattle yearly reared, each L.11, | | | | 979 0 0 |
| 285 cattle bought and fattened, each L.3, 10s. | | | | 997 10 0 |
| 300 sheep, reared annually, each, L.1 | | | | 300 0 0 |
| 17 horses reared annually, each L.20, | | | | 340 0 0 |
| 246 swine, each L.1, 10s., | | | | 369 0 0 |
| | | | | L.15,496 7 10 |

Much attention has been paid of late to the improvement of live-stock, and the style of farming is also far superior to what prevailed in former times. The rotation of cropping generally followed is the six-shift, beginning with green crop, which is followed by barley; then two years' grass, succeeded by wheat; and lastly by oats. A great deal has been done of late in the way of draining, ditching, and enclosing. One enterprising tenant alone has expended from L.1500 to L.2000 on such improvements. Within the last ten years also, nearly 200 acres have been brought into cultivation by industrious and skilful tenants. Of any estate in the parish, that of Grange shows probably the greatest change for the better. When it was bought about the year 1800, it contained 700 acres, of which two-thirds at least were completely waste; at present, the whole of that waste is under wood or regular cultivation.* Extensive improvements have been made too on the barony of Muirtown; and on the farm of Kinloss, the proprietor has built as handsome and commodious a square of offices as any in the county. By planting and taking in waste land, the estate of Sir G. Macpherson Grant, Bart. has undergone considerable change. The march of improvement, however, has still room to advance. No inconsiderable portion of the undivided common, now overflown by the sea, might, by embanking, be reclaimed, and were a belt of planting carried down from Kinloss to Findhorn, on each side of the road, where there is nothing at

* In many respects, this parish had cause to regret the early death of the late amiable and intelligent proprietor, John Gordon Peterkin, Esq. of Grange and Greshop. He has been succeeded in the possession of the estate by his sister Mary Anne, only surviving child of the deceased James Peterkin, Esq., and a lady distinguished by many virtues. She married Major Peter Grant of Invererne. The parochial funds for the relief of the poor, and all contributions to charitable and religious objects, meet on every occasion with the generous support of the family.

present, but a coarse kind of bent, it would add greatly to the beauty of the landscape and the mildness of the climate.

Fisheries.—There are three different kinds of fisheries regularly prosecuted in the parish, the salmon, herring, and white or haddock fishery. The first has been successfully carried on for many years. The great flood of August 1829 so altered the course of the river at its confluence with the sea, that, for some seasons afterwards, it yielded not the same return as before, but now it is returning again to its wonted state of productiveness. On an average there are 600 boxes of fish, packed with ice, each containing 34 lbs., and worth L.5 Sterling, annually shipped for the London market. The fish is caught partly by drag, still, bag, stake-net, and yair. The price here, from 1st February to the 1st June is 1s. 6d. per lb. for salmon, and 1s. for grilises, and from 1st June to 1st August 1s. for the former, and 6d. for the latter. The rent for the whole river, bay, and sea fishing is L.1180. The herring-fishery, which is next, if not first in importance to the parishioners, has also been prosecuted with various success for the last twenty years. The fishermen are sixty in number, and during the last ten years upwards of 20,000 barrels of herrings have been caught by them, for which they have been paid on an average, at the rate of at least 8s. 6d. per barrel, making the sum received by them for that period L. 8500, while the time spent each season in earning their gains seldom exceeds seven weeks. The boats are of large dimensions, and will carry from eight to ten tons weight. The herrings are of a good quality, and a large kind, and the meshes of the nets by which they are caught are about $1\frac{1}{8}$ to $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches in size, and the length of the drift with which the boats are equipped varies from 330 to 400 fathoms. The white or haddock fishery is likewise vigorously prosecuted by nine or ten boats, manned each by a crew of six men, and which, on an average, bring on shore every day they can get to sea, from L.8 to L.9 worth of very fine fish, for which Forres and the surrounding country furnish a ready market. The produce of this branch annually may be reckoned at L.2000.

The average produce of the fishings may therefore be thus computed :

| | | | |
|--|--------|-------|-------|
| Salmon, 600 boxes, at L.5 per box, . . . | L.3000 | 0 | 0 |
| Herrings, 2000 barrels, at L.1 per barrel, . . . | 2000 | 0 | 0 |
| Haddock and cod-fishing, at L.8 or L.9, . . . | 2000 | 0 | 0 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | L.7000 | 0 | 0 |

Navigation.—There are twelve vessels belonging to the sea-port of Findhorn in the parish, measuring in all 1000 tons register. Foreign vessels also visit the place, bringing sometimes two cargoes yearly of iron, tar, and timber from the Baltic, and one of timber from British North America. The articles brought coastways are about 25,000 barrels of Sunderland and Newcastle coals, which sell from 1s. 9d. to 2s. per barrel; 7000 bolls lime from the same places, which sell from 2s. 9d. to 3s. per boll; 400 tons coals from the Frith of Forth, which sell from 13s. to 17s. per ton; 150,000 slates from Balachulish, which sell from L.2, 15s. to L.3 per thousand; 300 tons iron from Wales and Staffordshire, which sells from L.8 to L.14 per ton, according to size and quality; 400 tons salt from Liverpool, which sells from L.1, 16s. to L.2 per ton; 5000 to 6000 bushels bone-dust for manure, which sells from 2s. 6d. to 2s. 8d. per bushel. There are regular trading smacks from London, Leith, and Liverpool, which bring general cargoes of merchandise for Forres, Elgin, and Nairn. There is also regular communication by steam-vessels with these different places. The produce of the country around, sent coastways yearly, may be about 2000 barrels of herrings, 10,000 quarters of grain of every description; 200 boxes of eggs, each containing 160 dozen; 2000 loads of timber, chiefly from the forests of Darnaway and Altyre.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Market-Town.—The nearest market-town is Forres, to which there is easy access by an excellent turnpike road to Findhorn, and which strikes off, at the bridge of Kinloss, by a branch eastward to Burghead and Elgin. The ride in this direction is one of the most beautiful in the district. Betwixt Forres and Findhorn there is a daily post. The distance is five miles.

Village.—The village of greatest importance is Findhorn,—signifying in Gaelic *the mouth of the Erne*, and hence by Highlanders called Invererne. It is a burgh of barony, and contains a population of above 800. It is the sea-port of Forres. The harbour, formed in a great measure by nature, is among the safest on the coast; and, there being two quays of hewn stone, one of them erected lately with a breast-work, by which it is joined to the old pier, at a cost above L.1300, excellent accommodation is afforded for shipping. The entrance from the Frith at the mouth of the river is, indeed, a little intricate, by reason of a bar that shifts with heavy floods and strong easterly winds; but the intricacy is very

much obviated by numerous active and skilful pilots, who understand the windings so well, that little damage has ever occurred, —one vessel only of all that have entered for the last forty years having been injured ; and even this accident was said to have been occasioned by the fault of the master. The truth is, that both the run at the entrance and the harbour itself are capable of receiving much larger vessels than usually frequent them. The depth of water in the shallowest part of the channel is $10\frac{1}{2}$ feet during the lowest neap-tide, and in stream tide it is from 13 to 17 feet, being greater than that of any other harbour on the coast from Aberdeen to Inverness. The bay, from the bar at the north to its termination south, is three and a half miles long, its breadth varying from five-eighths of a mile to two miles. A great part of it is dry at low water ; but in the run of the river, which, in some places, is about half a mile broad, there is, at the lowest ebb of stream tides, from 12 to 15 feet water, and the largest vessels which enter lie afloat at low water in perfect safety.

Ship-building.—This is a branch of trade which has of late been carried on with considerable spirit, under the auspices of Mr Thomas Davidson, and other enterprising merchants. They have brought a ship-carpenter from the south, who has settled in the place, and employs about twelve men. For the last five years ten vessels altogether, built of the fine oak and larch of Darnaway, have been sent off the stocks into the watery element,

Ecclesiastical State.—Kinloss, disjoined from Alves, Rafford, and Forres, was erected into a separate parish in 1657. The patrons are the Earl of Moray and Brodie of Lethen. After the Reformation, the abbey was for some time used as a place of worship, and might have so been to this day, had not its dilapidation early taken place, as already narrated. The present church was built in 1765, and in 1830 it underwent a thorough repair ; but, although too small for the accommodation of the parish, the heritors would not enlarge it. The kirk-session, however, with their consent, made an addition to it, capable of accommodating 200 additional sitters, and now there is sufficient room for all the church-going population. The people belong all to the Establishment, with the exception of one family of Independents, consisting of man and wife, and another of Episcopalians, two members even of which are in communion with the church. The attachment felt towards the Church is strong, and the contributions annually made in behalf of its religious schemes liberal, being between L. 15

and L. 20. The stipend was augmented in 1819 to 66 bolls, $2\frac{1}{2}$ lippies meal; 94 bolls, 3 firlots, 1 peck, $1\frac{2}{3}$ lippies barley; 18 bolls, 3 firlots, 2 pecks, $\frac{2}{3}$ lippies oats; and L.60, 10s. 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. Sterling. The teind is exhausted. The extent of the glebe is between four and five acres, value about L. 1, 8s. per acre. The manse was built in 1820, and, having been repaired in 1839, is at present in good condition. The accommodation it affords is not extensive: but the plan, furnished by the late Mr Gillespie of Edinburgh, is very neat. The parish church is centrically situated, being distant from the extremities of the parish on either side about two miles. There is no chapel of ease, but there is a place of worship in Findhorn wherein a Dissenting preacher at one time officiated. When the present incumbent was admitted, more than twenty years ago, it was vacant, and under the burden of some debt. This debt he paid off, and, with consent of the subscribers, took possession of the house, and he has since been in the practice of preaching in it on the Sabbath evening, generally once a month.

Education.—In the parish, there are two schools,—the parochial, and an Assembly school in Findhorn. The parochial schoolmaster's salary is L.35, his fees are about L.12, his other emoluments may amount to L.10, besides the yearly allowance from Mr Dick's bequest to the schoolmasters in the shires of Aberdeen, Banff, and Moray, which may be something about L.30. The present incumbent keeps an assistant, and the school is well and efficiently taught. The teacher at Findhorn has a salary of L. 20 per annum from the General Assembly's Education Committee, and his fees may amount to other L.12. The proprietor, H. A. J. Munro of Novar, who gives liberally every encouragement to educational institutions and plans, allows him L.10 per annum for cow's grass and other accommodations. A school-room and dwelling-house, affording excellent accommodation, were built a few years ago. The building cost something above L.160, which sum was raised by private subscriptions, and public collections in the parish. By the want of population in the immediate locality, the attendance on the parish school is comparatively small; but, betwixt these two schools, and a female school supported partly by subscription, there are from 150 to 170 children attending the means of instruction generally,—a proof that the people, for the most part, are alive to the benefits of education. There are not above five or six persons in the parish above fifteen

years of age unable to read. Sabbath schools are taught; and, in Findhorn especially, a visible change for the better has occurred, since the facilities of intellectual and religious instruction have been increased.

Savings Bank.—A savings bank, in connection with that in Forres, on Government security, was lately established, and it is to be hoped it will meet with the encouragement and support which such useful institutions deserve.

Library.—A small library, set on foot in Findhorn by collections, and another in connection with the General Assembly's school, have been found very beneficial. The books, chiefly of a religious and moral description, are eagerly sought and read by old and young.

Friendly Society.—A Friendly Society, formed about forty years ago, is continuing to flourish,—its funds amounting at present to L.380, of which L.300 is lent on heritable security, and the remainder is in the British Linen Company's Bank.

Poor.—The average number of poor receiving parochial aid is 40. The only funds for their relief, exclusive of the interest of a small mortified sum, are the weekly collections at church, amounting on an average to L. 50 per annum. There are occasional donations from the heritors to the amount of L. 10 a year, and several benevolent individuals in the parish distribute every year from 150 to 200 barrels of coals among the most destitute.

The allowance given in the course of the year to each pauper, varies from L. 1 to L.3, which would be altogether inadequate to their support, did not their relatives and neighbours kindly assist them. A laudable spirit of independence, too, prompts them to make as much as possible by their own industry, and for the last twenty years not an individual from among the numerous poor that are in the parish, has gone forth from it publicly to beg. There has been no assessment hitherto, but how long this state of matters, however desirable, may continue, is difficult to say. The population is on the increase, and if pauperism should increase along with it, nothing can prevent a change in the system which the kirk-session has been labouring to uphold, save increasing liberality on the part of the non-resident heritors, who have hitherto in any way, borne but a very trifling share of the burden.

Fairs.—Three fairs are held annually at Findhorn, one in October, one in March, and one in July, on the second Wednesday (old style) of each month, chiefly for sheep, cattle, and horses.

Inns.—Of licensed public-houses and whisky shops, there is a superabundant number, no fewer than 13. That they have a demoralising tendency is most apparent.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

From the preceding statements it may be seen, that the state of this parish in regard both to its agricultural, mercantile, and educational resources, has been considerably improved within half a century. By the attention that is paid to the system of farming and breed of stock, husbandry has been carried to a much higher degree of perfection—the means of communication by roads and bridges have become more ample—the education, dress, lodging, have become greatly meliorated, and an appearance of cultivation, beauty, and prosperity, has been given to the whole aspect of the parish, which it did not before possess. The improvements on the coast have kept pace with those in the interior. The harbour accommodation has been enlarged and the shipping increased. Of the houses built, both in town and country, the outward appearance and internal arrangements are vastly superior to the old, and the seafaring as well as the agricultural population, the tradesmen and the peasantry, are better educated, better fed, better clad, and better accommodated, than used to be the generation of their fathers. The tide of prosperity which has thus so rapidly flowed in commerce and agriculture, has, it is to be hoped, been accompanied by progressive advancement in the cultivation of the moral soil, and the attainment of what is the true riches,—the excellence of Christian character.

February 1842.

UNITED PARISHES OF DYKE AND MOY.*

PRESBYTERY OF FORRES, SYNOD OF MORAY.

THE REV. MARK AITKEN, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—THE name of the parish of Dyke is supposed to be the Gaelic word *Dig*, signifying a *water drain or ditch*; that of *Moy*, the Gaelic word *Maigh*, signifying a *plain*.

Boundaries, &c.—The parish is situate on the south coast of the Moray Frith, and on the west side of the river Findhorn. Its extent is about 27 square miles.

Topographical Appearances.—The forest of Darnaway covers a considerable extent in the southern part of the parish, concealing from the view the park and open grounds around the castle of Darnaway. The ground slopes gradually to the north, with a gently undulating surface. After leaving the forest, the view is particularly rich and picturesque. To the left are the fine woods around Brodie House; and, northward from it, appear the church and village of Dyke, embosomed in trees, and almost hid from the view. Behind the village, to the north-west, the ground rises considerably, with fine fields sloping towards the south, surrounded by trees and hedge-rows; while the Muckle Burn, and two smaller rivulets, fringed with natural alder, wind their way through the low ground, adding greatly to the beauty of the scene. Farther to the north are seen the woods and House of Dalvey. The ground still retains its undulating character, as far as the ancient boundaries of the parish of Dyke extend. The rich level land of Moy and Kincorth, ornamented by hedgerows and avenues, stretch from Dalvey to the sand-hills of Culbin. These cover an immense extent along the shore from east to west, relieved at the east end by the few acres which have as yet escaped devastation upon the estate of Binsness. To the north-west, there is a consi-

* Drawn up by Mr William Ogilvie, Parochial Schoolmaster of Dyke.

derable extent of moor and marsh, of which 150 acres were planted last year by the proprietor, J. M. Grant, Esq. of Glenmorriston. There still remain at least 200 acres fit for the growth of timber, which are to be planted next season. A few years ago, Robert Grant, Esq. of Kincorth, planted a belt skirting the sandhills, which is thriving admirably; and when the whole extent is covered with wood, it will prove a great shelter from the north, and conceal from the view a tract of ground, which at present has a very unsightly appearance.*

Meteorology.—This parish is not inferior in point of climate to any part of the county. There are no prevalent distempers arising from local causes. Many cases occur of individuals attaining nearly to the age of a hundred years.

Hydrography.—The Moray frith bounds the parish to the north. The shore is low and sandy. The water is exceedingly shallow for a considerable distance from the shore. The parish is well supplied with perennial springs, none of which possess any medicinal properties. The river Findhorn forms the eastern boundary of the parish, separating it, except in two points, from the parishes of Forres and Kinloss. The volume of water is not generally great; but the river, from having its source in the mountains, and from other causes, is subject to high floods. In 1829 it rose to an unprecedented height, and was comparatively more flooded than any of the rivers which were influenced by the rains that fell at that particular period. It carried down an immense quantity of sand, which it deposited in the bay of Findhorn, lessening its depth, over a surface of three square miles, to the extent of eighteen inches. For several years the fishing was almost destroyed; but it has been gradually improving, and is now nearly equal in value to what it was before the flood of 1829. After leaving its rocky bed below the suspension bridge, it is necessary to embank it, to prevent it from making encroachments on the cultivated ground. These embankments have cost an enormous expense, and require constant repair. When the river is flooded, such is the strength and velocity of its current, that it bursts all its artificial barriers, and sweeps resistlessly every thing before it. Several small trouting

* In the Hardmuir, to the north of the great post road, a little knoll, surmounted by a clump of fir trees, is pointed out as the scene of the meeting between the weird sisters of Forres and the Thane of Glammis. The blasted heath is now covered with a thriving plantation. It is contended by some, that, in this instance, tradition is at variance with history. But were this proved to be the case, facts cannot now deprive the "Harmore scene" of the interest which tradition and poetry have thrown around it.

streams run through the parish, of which the largest is the Muckle Burn: all of them fall into the Findhorn.

*Geology.**—The most remarkable feature in the geology of the parish, is the sand-hills of Culbin. About the beginning of the thirteenth century, a section of the most fertile land in Moray, stretching along the sea-coast for several miles, was overblown and devastated by an irruption of sand from the westward. The immediate cause of this catastrophe is supposed to have been that partial upraising of the coast out of the bed of the ocean now ascertained to have taken place within the present geological era, which, by exposing to the action of the atmosphere the accumulated silicious detritus of ages, furnished the magazine from which this fearful inundation was derived. The estate of Culbin, once a valuable patrimony, is now an arid waste of shifting sand, destitute of any herbage except bent (*Carex arenaria*, or *Ammophila arundinacea*). Many of the sand-hills rise to the height of 100 feet above the level of the sea; and, when sections are exposed, they exhibit a species of stratification similar to a series of superimposed beds in a sandstone quarry.

Proceeding upwards from the sea, along the course of the river Findhorn, the first rock exposed is at the suspension-bridge over the river, on the great post road. It is a coarse concretionary limestone, containing schist, iron pyrites, and occasionally crystals of galena or lead-ore. This bed in Moray forms the uppermost section of the old red sandstone. Between Findhorn bridge and the sea no rocky strata are exposed, the whole district being covered over by a mass of diluvium of great thickness; but should strata be detected between this point and the sea, they will be found to belong to newer formations than the old red sandstone. From the bridge up to the promontory of Sluie, a succession of magnificent sections of old red sandstone is exposed. These deposits belong to the middle or gray beds of the system, and are characterized by containing organic remains in considerable variety and abundance, of which teeth and scales of fossil fish of the genus *Holoptychius* have been determined. At Sluie the sandstone beds terminate abruptly, and are met by an almost vertical cliff of gneiss and granite, belonging to the primary series of rocks. At this junction, there is no upheavement of the newer or sandstone beds from the general inclination of about 14°, while the primary rocks are nearly vertical. From this absence of dis-

* Communicated by Arthur Duff, Esq. Elgin.

turbance in the newer rocks, it is inferred, that the primary beds were raised to their present angle before the deposition of the sandstone. From Sluie to the head of the parish, the primary rocks only are found. The noble domain of Darnaway, with its adjoining forest of oak, occupies the primary and old red sandstone section of the parish. That portion of it which rests on the limestone and newer deposits, which are always characterized by a gently undulating surface, is studded by gentlemen's seats, and is highly cultivated.

Botany.—This parish presents rather an interesting field to the botanist. The sea-coast, the banks of the Findhorn, and the woods of Darnaway and Brodie, are worthy of being better explored than they have hitherto been. There was collected by the late James Brodie, Esq. of Brodie, a large and valuable Herbarium; but it contains few specimens gathered within the county of Moray. It is now in the possession of David Stewart, Esq. Edinburgh. Near Brodie House, the rare and beautiful *Pyrola uniflora*, now termed *Monesis grandiflora*, was at one period found; but it has now entirely disappeared,—probably from the spot where it grew being overgrown with furze. In the Darnaway forest, and in the park and woods of Brodie, are many splendid specimens of oak, ash, and beech. At Earlsmill, on the Darnaway property, are two magnificent trees,—one an ash, and the other a beech, which were noticed in the old Statistical Account. At the time of its publication, the ash measured 14 feet 10 inches in girth. It now measures 17 feet 7 inches. In 1824, it lost two of its largest branches, and is now a splendid ruin, fast going to decay. In the centre of it, there is a cavity large enough to admit of three men standing upright. The beech is still in full vigour, and has increased in girth from 14 feet 7 inches to 16 feet. On the property of William Brodie, Esq. of Brodie, and near the boundary line which separates the parishes of Dyke and Auldearn, are two Scotch firs (*Pinus sylvestris*), which are especially deserving of notice. Since so much of the old pine forests of Scotland have fallen before the woodman's axe, there are comparatively few fine large specimens of this tree to be seen. These two are called, by way of pre-eminence, the King and the Queen. One of them measures, at the height of three feet from the ground, 12 feet 8 inches in circumference. The other is somewhat less. The smaller of the two stands on rather high ground, and, towering, as it does, far above its comparatively puny neighbours, has been

shorn of some of its branches by the westerly blasts, and the symmetry of its top has been thus partially destroyed, without adding to its picturesque beauty ; but the other, with its massy and deeply-furrowed trunk, its giant branches beautifully arranged and grouped together, and spreading over a space measuring 67 feet in diameter, has, from its lower situation, escaped the ravages of the tempest, and is surpassed by few, if any, of the same species in Scotland.

In the garden of Dalvey, there is a venerable apple tree, which still blossoms richly, and bears some fruit of inferior quality. It is impossible to ascertain its age ; but it is conjectured, with some appearance of truth, that it was planted by the monks of Pluscarden, at the time that Dalvey, then called Grangehill, belonged to that priory. The wood is very much decayed, and the tree, long ere this, would have fallen to the ground if it had not been supported.

In the park near Brodie House, there is a plant of *Magnolia purpurea*, grown to the height of 18 feet.

The following list, selected chiefly from Mr Gordon's " Collec-tanea for a Flora of Moray," comprehends the rarer plants found within the parish :—

| | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>Hippuris vulgaris</i> | <i>Saxifraga stellaris</i> * | <i>Listera ovata</i> |
| <i>Veronica montana</i> | <i>aizoides</i> * | <i>Typha latifolia</i> |
| <i>Circæa alpina</i> | <i>Clinopodium vulgare</i> | <i>Carex incurva</i> |
| <i>Rhynchospora alba</i> | <i>Cochlearia Anglica</i> | <i>pauciflora</i> |
| <i>Scirpus lacustris</i> | <i>Danica</i> | <i>teretiuscula</i> |
| <i>Eleocharis multicaulis</i> | <i>Erysimum Alliaria</i> | <i>stricta</i> |
| <i>fluitans</i> | <i>Geranium pyrenaicum</i> | <i>Carex sylvatica</i> |
| <i>Milium effusum</i> | <i>Corydalis claviculata</i> | <i>Spergula subulata</i> |
| <i>Epilobium hirsutum</i> | <i>Cnicus heterophyllus</i> | <i>Mentha sylvestris</i> |
| <i>roseum</i> | <i>Petasites vulgaris</i> | <i>Ballota nigra</i> . |

Zoology.—The roe (*Cervus capreolus*) is found in the Darnaway forest, and in the woods of Brodie. The fox (*Canis vulpes*), the badger (*Ursus meles*), the polecat and weasel (*Mustelæ*), are frequently to be met with. The common hare (*Lepus timidus*), is abundant. Rabbits (*L. cuniculus*), burrow in great numbers throughout the plantations and in the sand-hills. They are very destructive to the crops. Notwithstanding a constant war of extermination carried on against them, it is found impossible, from the extent of cover, to eradicate them.

Reptiles.—Among the reptiles may be mentioned the viper (*Coluber berus*), the adder (*Anguis eryx*), and lizards (*Lacertæ*).

* Both these are alpine plants, and have been carried down from the higher region* by the river. A single specimen only of *Saxifraga stellaris* was found near Moy Carse by Dr Innes of Forres subsequently to the floods of 1829.

Birds.—There are several rookeries in the parish. Whatever opinion may be entertained elsewhere, the farmers in this quarter do not look upon the rooks as the “farmer’s friend,” and would be glad to get rid of them. They think, and not without reason, that the good which they do is far more than counterbalanced by the ravages which they commit upon the young braird and the potato crops. Pheasants (*Phasianus colchicus*), are very numerous. The cross-bill (*Loxia curvirostra*), the starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), the woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola*), the golden-crested wren (*Motacilla regulus*), the quail (*Tetrao coturnix*), the siskin (*Fringilla spinus*), all build in the parish. A beautiful specimen of the snowy day-owl (*Surnia nyctea*), was shot some years ago in the sand-hills.

Amongst the water-fowl, which frequent the small lochs and marshy ground near the sea-coast, are the following: The wild-swallow (*Anas cygnus ferus*), white-fronted wild-geese (*A. albifrons*), scaup-duck (*A. Marila*), shieldrake (*A. tadorna*), pin-tailed duck (*A. acuta*), long-tailed duck (*A. glacialis*), golden-eye (*A. clangula*), tufted-duck (*A. fusca*), gooseander (*Mergus merganser*), auk or razor-bill (*Alca torda*). The great northern diver (*Colymbus glacialis*), is sometimes to be met with in the bay of Findhorn. A specimen of the bittern (*Ardea stellaris*), was shot in a small loch, in 1839, in the Brodie woods. A great variety of terns (*Sterna*), breed upon the sand-hills of Culbin. Thousands of the black-headed gull (*Larus ridibundus*), breed upon an islet in a small loch in the Darnaway forest.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Eminent Characters.—Among the eminent individuals connected with this parish, may be mentioned James Stewart, known as “the good Regent,” who was Earl of Moray in the reign of his sister, the unfortunate Mary Queen of Scots.

Alexander Brodie of Brodie, who lived during the usurpation of Oliver Cromwell, was a man of great piety, learning, and ability. He was twice chosen a Lord of Session, but from his retired and domestic habits, accepted the office with reluctance, and soon resigned. He was one of the commissioners sent to treat with Charles II. at the Hague and at Breda. He left a diary, of which extracts were published about the middle of the last century, which illustrate some parts of the history of the times in which he lived.

The late James Brodie of Brodie was a man of considerable talent and scientific acquirements. He especially distinguished

himself as a botanist, and added a considerable number of plants to the British Flora.

Land-owners.—The Earl of Moray; William Brodie Esq. of Brodie; Norman M'Leod, Esq. of Dalvey; James M. Grant, Esq. of Glenmorrison and Moy; Robert Grant, Esq. of Kin-corth; John P. Grant, Esq. of Rothiemurchus and Binsness.

Parochial Registers.—The earliest date of the parochial registers is 1640. They consist of eleven volumes of different sizes. Before the date of the registers which are now filling up, there are several blanks. Since 1783, they have been regularly kept.

Antiquities.—Forming the back wing of the castle of Darnaway, stands an ancient hall, measuring 89 feet long by 35 feet broad. Its lofty roof is supported by massy beams of oak, and resembles those of the Parliament House of Edinburgh, and Guildhall, London. It is said to have been erected by Thomas Randolph, Earl of Moray. A large table of oak, and a chair of the same material, which bear evident marks of great antiquity, are still preserved as memorials of the office and hospitality of the Regent.

Near the northern approach to Brodie House, is a sort of obelisk, about six feet high, forming a parallelogram. On one side is a cross, elaborately carved, and on the other a number of rudely sculptured fabulous animals. It was found in digging out the foundations of the present church, and was claimed by some of the parishioners as a grave-stone, a purpose for which it was obviously never designed. It was put up in the village in commemoration of Rodney's victory over the Count de Grasse, and from that circumstance received the name of Rodney's Cross. A few years ago, it was removed to the Park of Brodie. It is very much defaced, and no trace of any inscription can now be seen upon it.

In the church yard of Dyke, there is a grave-stone belonging to the Brodie family of the date of 1448. The inscription is still perfectly distinct and legible.

About eighteen years ago, there was found in the churchyard, imbedded in a heap of rubbish, a grave-stone, which possesses a peculiar and melancholy interest, not so much from its antiquity, for its date is only 1613, but as the only existing memorial of a once powerful and opulent family, now extinct. Even the spot where the ashes of the members of the family repose, cannot now be pointed out. Fortunately it had escaped injury, and is quite entire. A few years after it was found, it was placed for its better preservation in the church.

Upon the upper part of the stone are engraved the arms of the family, with the initials of the "Laird and Ladie," and underneath is the following inscription :

Valter Kinnaird : Elizabeth Innes
The buildars of this bed of stane,
Are Laird and Ladie of Coubine.
Qhilk twa and thairs, when
Braith is gane, pleise God,
Vil sleip this bed within—
1613.

About fifteen years ago, there was dug out of a steep bank above the Findhorn, a coffin of large dimensions, composed of flag-stones, containing the remains of a human skeleton.

Ancient Coins.—Several of the coins noticed in the old Account as having been found in the parish are in the hands of private collectors.

Modern Buildings.—Darnaway Castle is a large oblong pile. When seen from a distance, it has a very imposing appearance, rising in proud pre-eminence above the surrounding forest. It stands upon a gentle eminence, commanding a magnificent view of rich and varied scenery. The park below the castle presents a fine field for the landscape gardener. It contains great variety of ground, and natural capabilities, which, from the non-residence of the noble proprietor, have not been improved to the full extent of which they are susceptible. During the last two years, the family have resided at the castle, and several improvements have already been made. Walks have been formed of immense extent, by the Honourable John Stewart, leading to and opening up scenery of surpassing beauty upon the banks of the Findhorn.

Brodie House is an irregular, castellated building. A large addition to the old mansion-house was built by the present proprietor in the old English style. The ground around is naturally an uninteresting flat; but the fineness of the wood, for the growth of which the soil is admirably adapted, the taste with which the ground has been laid out, its numerous avenues of noble trees, and an artificial pond, have supplied the place of natural beauty, and make it a delightful residence. The ceiling of the drawing-room is divided into compartments, and is curiously ornamented with grotesque figures, formed of stucco, in alto relievo. An excellent collection of paintings adorns the walls of the public rooms, several of which are of great value.

Nearly occupying the site of the old Castle of Dalvey stands a handsome modern building, pleasantly situated upon a fine knoll, overlooking the Muckle Burn, which passes it in front. The gar-

den, which is open to every lover of Flora, is an object of great attraction. It is stocked with an extensive and varied selection of the most beautiful plants and flowers. The other modern mansion-houses are those of Moy and Kincorth. The material used in building is sandstone.

III.—POPULATION.

| | |
|--|------------------|
| According to the census of 1831, the population of the parish was | 1457 |
| 1841, | 1365 |
| The number of families in 1841, | 295 |
| Average number of births for the preceding seven years, as per register, | 22 $\frac{3}{4}$ |
| marriages, | 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| deaths, | 22 $\frac{1}{2}$ |

The decrease is partly owing to emigration, and partly to the enlargement of farms.

Norman Macleod, Esq. of Dalvey, is the only proprietor who constantly resides in the parish. The Earl of Moray has resided for the last two years. Robert Grant, Esq. of Kincorth, resides for several months in the parish every season.

There are three families of independent fortune in the parish, besides the landed proprietors. Five of the proprietors hold lands of the yearly value of upwards of L.50.

There is one person fatuous and dumb, and one blind.

The people seem contented and happy, and enjoy, in a reasonable degree, the comforts and advantages of society. They are generally decent, industrious, and sober; church-going in their habits, and attached to the church of their fathers. A great improvement has taken place in the morals and intelligence of the people, within the last twenty years.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture and Rural Economy.—The number of acres under tillage is 3218 imperial. There is scarcely an acre capable of cultivation, which has not already been brought under the plough. Of pasture there are 1286 acres, and 2802 acres under wood. The rest of the parish, to the extent of 9974 acres, is an irreclaimable waste. There is no undivided common.

Rent of Land.—The average rent of arable land is L.1, 15s. per Scotch acre.

The gross rental of the parish is about L.5632.

Price of Labour.—Farm-servants receive from L.10 to L.14 per annum with board; women-servants, from L.3 to L.4. Day-labourers gain 1s. 8d. in summer, and 1s. 3d. in winter, without victuals. During harvest, the price of labour is considerably higher. A mason receives 2s. 6d., and a carpenter 2s. a day.

Husbandry.—On the estate of Darnaway, the tenants are bound to follow the five-shift rotation; and on the other properties, the six-shift. The farms are generally let for a period of nineteen years. They vary in size from 40 to 150 acres Scots. The average produce of wheat is $4\frac{1}{4}$ quarters; of barley, 6 quarters; of oats, $5\frac{1}{4}$ quarters per acre, Scots. Wheat weighs from 60 to 65 lbs.; barley from 52 to 57 lbs.; oats, from 40 to 45 lbs. per bushel. The average produce of hay is 150 stones per acre Scots.

Improvements.—Subsoil ploughing and furrow-draining have been tried upon a farm belonging to the Earl of Moray; and there is no doubt that there will be an ample remuneration for the outlay. Several acres have been trenched with the spade during last winter. Lime and marl have been extensively used. Bone dust is also in general use. It is planted or sown with the hand at the rate of ten bushels to the acre, and produces excellent crops of turnips, for which the soil is well adapted.

The subsoil varies considerably. In some places, it is a fine open sand, or gravel; in others, it is composed of a hard pan, called Moray coast, impervious to water. Furrow-draining and subsoil or trench-ploughing might be profitably introduced to a great extent.

The few hedgerows are generally ill-kept and broken. They serve to enrich the landscape, but are of little use as fences. From the expense of driving material, there are very few stone dikes. The most common fence is paling, which is cheap, and of easy carriage.

Great improvements have been made within these few years upon farm-steadings. Still, however, much remains to be done, in that respect, especially on small farms.

There are sixteen thrashing mills in the parish, for the most part worked by horses.

Woods.—The wood consists of oak, ash, beech, elm, Scotch fir, larch, spruce, birch, sycamore, horse-chestnut, and alder. The plantations are generally well and regularly kept. The management of the Darnaway forest, as to pruning, thinning, &c. does very great credit to Mr Cutler the forester. His improved plan of raising oak plants from the seed deserves to be especially noticed, and made extensively known. The bed intended to be sown, which, in this case, is 40 feet square, is excavated to the depth of a foot. Sleepers are then laid three feet apart,

and floored over with slab deals in the same way as a room, with this difference only, that wooden pegs are used in place of nails. The foot of earth, which was previously taken out, is now replaced upon the floor. The seed-beds are formed three feet wide, with a foot between them. The seed is then sown and covered with two inches of earth, which is trodden down firmly with the foot, to prevent mice from destroying the acorns. The beds remain in this state till the plants make their appearance, when the earth is gently loosened with a dung fork, to give relief to the plants, and to allow them to throw out their fibres more freely. When they are fit for transplanting, a spade is run along from end to end of the beds with its mouth kept close to the floor, and the plants are picked up by the hand, as the spade turns them up. They are then carried to the forest, and planted in the same way as seedling firs. One advantage obviously resulting from this plan, is the great saving of expense in planting; and another is, that, during the whole process, every fibre of the root, though as fine as a hair, escapes injury; and, when planted, the young oaks take root and grow at once, whereas by the old method the roots are all cut, and it is generally the third year before they recover from the check, and a great many of them die.

There are regular sales of timber, fit for boat and ship building, and general carpenter-work, in the Darnaway forest and the other plantations.

The Scotch acre is planted by Mr Grigor of the Forres nurseries with 4500 Scotch firs and larches for 13s.

Fishings.—There is a salmon fishing of considerable value upon the Findhorn. The sea-shore yields an inexhaustible supply of excellent cockles, which not only afford a wholesome addition to the meals of the common people, but give employment and subsistence to a number of women, who sell them through the country and the neighbouring towns. It is calculated that the produce of this bed exceeds L. 100 per annum, besides what is gathered for home consumption by the cottagers.

Produce.—The average gross value of raw produce yearly raised in the parish, as nearly as can be ascertained, is as follows:

| | | | | | |
|----------|---|---|--------|---|---|
| Wheat, | - | - | L.5976 | 0 | 0 |
| Barley, | - | - | 4717 | 0 | 0 |
| Oats, | - | - | 3263 | 0 | 0 |
| Hay, | - | - | 674 | 0 | 0 |
| Pasture, | - | - | 2084 | 0 | 0 |
| Turnips, | - | - | 2285 | 0 | 0 |

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|---|----------|---|---|
| Potatoes, | - | - | L.790 | 0 | 0 |
| Thinning and felling of wood, | - | - | 1493 | 0 | 0 |
| Gardens, | - | - | 140 | 0 | 0 |
| Salmon fishings, and cockles, | - | - | 400 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | <hr/> | | |
| | | | L.21,822 | 0 | 0 |

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

There is no market-town in the parish. The nearest is Forres, distant about four miles from the centre of the parish. There are several small villages; Dyke, Kintessack, Broom of Moy, and Whitemire. The population of the largest does not exceed 200.

Means of Communication.—The nearest post-office is that of Forres. The great post-road, from Aberdeen to Inverness, on which the mail and two stage-coaches run daily, traverses the parish from east to west, and county roads intersect it in all directions. A great number of bridges span the burns which flow through the parish, and an elegant suspension-bridge connects it with Forres.

Ecclesiastical State.—The Established Church is the only place of public worship in the parish. It is conveniently situated. It was built in 1781, and is in good repair. It is seated for betwixt 800 and 900. No seat rents are exacted. The number of communicants belonging to the parish, and from the neighbourhood, is about 250. The manse was built about fifty-one years ago. It received repairs and an addition in 1822. The stipend is 16 chalders, of which one-half is barley, and the other meal; besides L.8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements, and L.20 Scots, in lieu of a grass glebe. There are two glebes, consisting of 10 acres, valued at L.16.

Two hundred and forty-nine families attend the Established Church. There are 43 Dissenting, and 3 Episcopalian families in the parish.

Education.—There is one parish school, the teacher of which has more than the legal accommodation, and the maximum salary. This parish is within the bounds embraced by the Dick Bequest. The allowance from that source varies according to circumstances. The average for the last seven years allocated to this parish is L.34 per annum. The session-clerkship is worth about L.5. The school-fees amount to about L.30. The branches taught are, Greek, Latin, French, mathematics, &c. For the purpose of elevating the standard of education in the parish, the school-master has hitherto taught geography and English grammar gratis.

Till within these few years, there was a school in the village of

Kintessack, which was given up for want of sufficient support. There is great need of one in that locality; and there is now some prospect of its being established under more favourable circumstances. There is a Society school in Edinkillie, near the confines of this parish, which puts the benefits of education within the reach of those who are at too great a distance from the parish school. There is a female school in the village of Dyke, the teacher of which has a house and garden, and a small endowment. There is another female school in the village, and one in Kintessack, wholly supported by school-fees. The number of children attending school in the parish, is about 200. There is an annual sum of L.8, 10s. 6d. arising from two mortifications for the education of the children of the poor. There are none in the parish above ten years of age, who cannot read.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The average number of persons on the poor's roll, is 90; and the average amount of collections, for the last seven years, is L 43, 6s. 8d. There are, besides, three bolls of barley, from a mortification for the use of the poor, and the interest of L.100 for the clothing of poor children. The allowance to each varies from 2s. 6d. to L.1, 10s. per annum, according to circumstances. Besides these public funds, the proprietors and their families distribute, during the winter, coals, money, and clothing to the most necessitous upon the respective estates.

Inns.—There are 7 ale-houses; far more than are necessary for the accommodation of the parish. To the credit of the inhabitants, it may be added, that they are not much frequented.

Fuel.—Turf and wood are in most general use for fuel among the poorer classes. From the breadth of plantation in the parish, wood fire is cheap. Ships deliver coals, when the weather permits, within the parish, opposite to the barbour of Findhorn. The nearest sea-port is Nairn.

March 1842.

PARISH OF ROTHES.

PRESBYTERY OF ABERLOUR, SYNOD OF MORAY.

THE REV. ALEXANDER M'WATT, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Boundaries, &c.—THE parish of Rothes is beautifully situated on the west bank of the river Spey, with the exception of the estate of Aikenway, formerly called Oakenwall, which is on the opposite bank, at the bottom of the hill of Beneagen, and occupies little more than the space of a mile, in the form of a peninsula. It is bounded on the south and south-west, by Aberlour and Knockando; on the west, by Dallas; on the north-west and north, by Dallas, Birnie, Elgin, St Andrews-Lhanbryd, and Speymouth; and on the east, by the Spey, (on whose opposite bank is the parish of Boharm,) extending along the winding bank of the river, northward from the rock of Craigellachie, a distance of between nine and ten miles, with an average breadth of nearly three.

Topographical Appearances.—The form of the parish is somewhat irregular, and its physical aspect agreeably diversified with hill and dale. Besides the noble Spey, several smaller streams or burns are in the parish, which descend from the interior, and discharge their waters into the river at various places. Along the margin of the Spey, the surface of the ground is extremely level, and the hills, at certain distances, bending near to the bank of the river, have shaped this level course into four beautiful haughs or detached plains called Dandaleith, Rothes, Dundureus, and Orton. These haughs consist either of excellent alluvial soil or deep loam, and produce some of the finest crops of oats, barley, and wheat, to be met with in the country. By the river side, the soil is, with few exceptions, rich and fertile throughout. Leaving the Spey, and advancing into the interior of the parish, the surface swells or rises into irregular eminences of various and considerable height, and forms, as it were, a natural barrier on the north and west. The sides of these rising grounds are, in a great measure, covered with thriving plantations of wood, principally Scotch fir and larch,

which cover nearly 800 imperial acres, all of which are particularly thriving, and some of them nearly advanced to maturity. In the more elevated parts of the parish, there is a considerable extent of hill, moor, and moss ground, which never has been in cultivation; on the greater part of which heath and natural grass grow, affording pasturage to flocks of sheep; and the remainder consists of peat-moss, which is highly serviceable to the population as an article of fuel.

The soil along the margin of the river consists, in general, of a deep and fertile loam,—in some places, of beds of pure clay; in others, of a mixture of light sand and coarse gravel, superinduced by the floods. Along the bottom of the hills, the mould is sharp and gravelly; and on the hill-side, moss-earth is to be met occasionally. Within the last twenty or thirty years, great and important improvements in the system of agriculture have been introduced by a regular rotation of cropping, and the judicious use of lime as a manure. Portions of waste land have been thus reclaimed, and are now become tolerably productive.

The geological features of the parish, so far as yet ascertained, are few and simple. At the southern extremity, is the lofty and picturesque rock of the lower Craigellachie, consisting of huge detached masses of quartz; and between that and the village of Rothes, a short distance to the south-west, is another somewhat remarkable and conspicuous eminence called Conerock, also of quartz, and of similar character; and both present the appearance of having, at an early period, experienced the effects of some awful revolution of nature. By fracturing the blocks of quartz which form the hill of Conerock, as well as examining their surface, beautiful specimens of rock crystal, of various sizes, are met with, and, some years ago, they were eagerly sought after by the curious. Similar specimens are also found in other localities of the parish. Erratic blocks of granite, of greater or less dimensions, are scattered here and there; and although no continuous, or regular mass, or rock of granite, has yet been discovered, it is the decided opinion of geologists, that granite, sometimes passing into gneiss, is the prevailing character of the underlying strata. A kind of sandstone, possessed of considerable hardness, and placed in regular laminae, walls the sides of the mountain-streams already alluded to, while, in other parts of their course, quantities of mica-slate, imbedded in blocks of granite, appear.

Climate.—The climate of Rothes is genial and temperate; and

from the purity of the air, and the verdure of the surrounding mountains, is regarded as highly conducive to health and longevity. The harvests are early, and the crops very seldom affected by frost. For, though the more cultivated and productive parts of the parish lie at the distance of ten or fourteen miles from the sea-shore, yet, in consequence of being well sheltered on the one side by the high hills of the parish, and on the other, by the mountain of Beneagen, the crops are seldom more than ten days later in arriving at maturity than those nearer the coast.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Parochial Registers.—The parochial registers are of two kinds, marriage and baptismal; the former commences in the year 1791, the latter in 1717. The baptismal register has been kept regularly throughout; the other has a break from 1815 to 1832.

Land-owners.—The parish is divided among six proprietors :—the Earl of Seafield; Richard Wharton Duff, Esq. of Orton; the Duke of Richmond; William Grant M'Dowall, Esq. of Arndilly; William Robertson, Esq. of Auchinroath; and Mrs Cumming of Logie and Piterraigie. The last two hold their respective properties off the Earl of Seafield, as superior, and pay to his Lordship a small annual feu-rent. The Earl of Seafield is the largest proprietor, and the valued rent of his estates amounts to L.1621, 14s. 10d. Scots. To him belongs the village of Rothies, situated on the haugh of that name, in a very pleasing and picturesque spot, surrounded on all hands by lofty hills, distant ten miles from Elgin, the same from Fochabers, and about twelve from Keith. It was commenced in the year 1766, on leases of two nineteen years, and the liferent thereafter of the possessor; after which, it is in the option of the proprietor to take the tenements to himself at valuation. Each tenement occupies the eighth part of an acre, at an annual rent of 10s. At the same time, the tenants of each tenement have the privilege of renting an acre or two of land along with each tenement, but without any formal lease; and by this means, as the land is generally good, together with the emoluments of some industrial employment, to which they have, in most cases, been early trained, they procure for themselves a decent and respectable livelihood. Of late years, however, a number of poor labourers and others have been induced to take up their residence in the village, and having no fixed employment, they are, in general, in indifferent circumstances, and in the winter season are subjected to great privations.

The second largest proprietor in the parish is R. Wharton Duff, Esq of Orton. His property lies towards the lower end of the parish, and, unlike many of the landed gentry, he resides the greater part of the year on his estate. Orton House is a large and handsome edifice of four stories, containing ample accommodation for a family, and stands within less than half a mile from the banks of the Spey. The grounds about the house are tastefully laid out and carefully kept, and a large and well sheltered garden and orchard yield an abundant supply of vegetables and fruit. Besides being embellished with a variety of the more ornamental trees and shrubs, Orton House is encompassed with a considerable extent of thriving plantation, principally of Scotch fir, but interspersed to no small extent with larch and various kinds of hard-wood, as oak, beech, ash, and elm. The valued rent of Mr Wharton Duff's property is L.501, 12s. 2d. Scots.

At the northern extremity of the parish the Duke of Richmond possesses a small property called Inchberry. The soil in this part of the parish is inferior, and inclined to moor and gravel, and covers an extent of 835 imperial acres. Of these, 170 acres are under cultivation, 20 in pasture, 20 in planting, and 625 in moor. Of the moor land, none, or scarcely any, could with a profitable application of capital, be added to the cultivated land. It is all undivided, and pastured upon in common by the cattle belonging to his Grace's tenants of Inchberry. Valued rent is L.134, 0s. 8d. Scots, and the real rental may be stated at L.141.

One side of the glen of Rothies belongs to the family of Logie. At Birchfield, there is a commodious house and productive garden, lying at the base of a high ridge of hill ground, beautified with a large plantation of natural birches, which stretches along the side of the glen to a good distance. From the appearance, it is evident that the house was originally intended to be a proprietor's residence, but at present it is occupied by one of the tenants. Valued rent is L.74, 15s. Scots. The opposite side of the glen is partly the property of William Robertson, Esq. of Auchinroath, but it is limited in extent, and, excepting a thriving plantation of Scotch firs and larches, is not particularly valuable. There is a snug, comfortable house, suitable to the size and quality of the property. Valued rent is L.35 Scots.

On the east side of the Spey, in the county of Banff, the peninsula of Aikenway, already alluded to, and projecting from the base of Beneagen, is the property of William Grant Macdowal,

Esq. of Arndilly, connected with his estate in the parish of Bo-harm. Aikenway is divided into two farms, upper and lower Aikenway, and a small croft. Valued rent is L.130 Scots.

Antiquities.—In the immediate vicinity of the village, the site of the once important and well fortified castle of Rothés is to be seen. This place of defence, the ancient seat of the Earls of Rothés, stood on the extreme verge of a point of land running out from the more elevated parts of the parish to a considerable distance, and the situation must have afforded every facility to the occupants for expelling the assaults of invading enemies. And not only did it possess this natural advantage, but, moreover, was surrounded by a high wall, and defended by a ditch on the land side, over which a draw-bridge was thrown, whereby the castle was nearly insulated, and well secured. The space occupied by this fortalice was pretty large, as the inequalities of the surface covering the ruins sufficiently indicate. At the present day, no vestige of the castle itself remains; only a portion of the high wall which once encompassed it stands a conspicuous object, and seems to call to remembrance the war-like character of our ancestors. About half a century ago, many of the stones of the ruin were removed to assist in the building of some of the houses of the village. The exact date when the castle was erected, is uncertain, but it may be safely supposed that it was not earlier than the middle of the fifteenth century. About that period, the first Earl of Rothés was created, of the ancient and honourable house of Leslie, and the castle was the residence of the Earls, to whom it has given the title. On the Peninsula of Aikenway, already alluded to, at its extreme point, which is a rock of considerable height overhanging the Spey, it is reported that an old castle once stood, bearing the name of the Castle of Oakenwall. The situation was peculiarly eligible, being surrounded on three parts by the Spey, whose broad, deep, and rapid stream, together with its steep and elevated banks, afforded sufficient defence; and the hill of Bencagen inwardly rendered the place not only a safe retreat, but a commanding position for its inhabitants. The whole form of the ground on which the castle is said to have stood, evinces that great care was taken to render the place suitable by art, as well as proper and convenient by nature, the only approach to the castle being by a narrow road on the top of an elevated ridge, from which the sides of the ground suddenly and equally sloped to the edge of

the river. And although no authentic historical documents are extant, at this distance of time, to attest the truth of such a tradition, there are some ruins to be seen which are pointed out as the remains of the castle, and afford no small degree of credibility to the tradition.* Connected with the castle of Rothés was a chapel or religious house, whose site is a short distance from the castle on the south side, and is marked out by the remains of a burying ground, which are still seen, though no longer used. The farm where this house was situated, is known by the name of Chapel hill. In the district of Orton, also, was a chapel, dedicated to the blessed Virgin. And in the same quarter, there exists a well, known by the name of the Chapel well, which, in former generations, when, under the Popish yoke, ignorance and superstition wofully prevailed, had attained a degree of unexampled celebrity for its efficacy in the removal of almost every kind of disease and suffering, and was the resort of multitudes from all parts of the country, even from the distant Highlands. The first Sabbath day of the month of May was the special period when the waters, through the miraculous interposition of the blessed Virgin, were said to possess their full medicinal and curative efficacy; and then, early in the morning, even before break of day, might be seen crowds of humanity, under real or imaginary suffering, of all ages, and ranks, wending their way from all directions towards the celebrated Chapel well, in anxious hopes of relief from their troubles. And even at present, there are individuals surviving who have witnessed the eagerness, and sympathized with the credulity, of persons resorting to this once consecrated well, believed to be efficacious in curing troubled hearts as well as diseased bodies. The first Sabbath of May is still observed by many of the lower classes of society hereabouts; and though, perhaps, not with the hopes of bygone days, yet, with no small degree of superstition, they keep up the practice of visiting the Chapel well, at an early hour of that day annually.

The parish of Rothés, with respect to its ecclesiastical and educational establishments, consists of what was originally the entire parish of Rothés, and a large proportion of Dundureus. The annexation took place in the year 1782, when the suppressed parish

* In the churchyard of the parish is to be seen the tombstone of the first Presbyterian clergyman after the Reformation. As the stone is quite entire, the inscription is perfectly legible, and runs as follows:—"Here lies anc Nobleman, Mr James Leslie, Parson of Rothés, Brother-Gerinan of George unquihile Earl of the same, who departed in the Lord, 13th October 1576."

of Dundurcus was divided between those of Boharm and Rothies. Whether the reasons calling for such a proceeding were at the time well or ill founded, it is not our province to inquire; but in the present altered state of manners and society, and the increased population of the country, a disjunction in this case, as well as in others similarly situated, would seem to be both politic and advantageous.

III.—POPULATION.

The whole population in the village, as computed by the census of 1841, amounts to 946: and the number of houses inhabited, 262; uninhabited, 13; building, 2. In the entire parish, there is a population of 1843, which is dispersed in the following manner:—

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----|---|------------|------------|-------------|
| Inhabited houses in the village, | 262 | } | Males. | Females. | Total. |
| Uninhabited do. | 13 | | 424 | 522 | 946 |
| Building, - - - | 2 | | | | |
| Inhabited houses in the country, | 196 | } | | | |
| Uninhabited do. | 8 | | 429 | 468 | 897 |
| Building, - - - | 2 | | <u>853</u> | <u>990</u> | <u>1843</u> |

The parish is situated partly in the county of Elgin and partly in the county of Banff. The number of persons residing in Elginshire is 1794; males, 828; females, 966. In Banffshire, 49; males, 25; females, 24. From this it will appear that, in the village, the number of females over males is 98, and in the rural districts, 39, and in the whole parish 137; and the average number of persons to each inhabited house, 4. In the year 1831, the population of the whole parish was 1709; the increase in 1841, therefore, is 134.

The number of illegitimate births in the parish within the last three years, is 8.

The inhabitants of the village consist chiefly of mechanics and agricultural labourers. No manufacture of any consequence is carried on, if we except small quantities of rough blanketing, &c. Within the last two years, one of the most extensive distilleries in the north has been established in it by Messrs J. and J. Grant; in which establishment, between 30,000 and 40,000 gallons of whisky are annually made. The distillery is constructed to distil nearly 1500 gallons per week.

Though the people are, for the most part, attached to their native place, and seem not to desire to remove far, or for any length of time, beyond its bounds, yet there are some individuals, whom an honourable ambition to improve their circumstances now and

then impels to seek their fortune in other lands; and hence, within the last few years, a good many have undertaken voyages to America and Australia.*

IV.—INDUSTRY.

As the several properties in the parish have not been thoroughly surveyed, the exact extent of ground which lies constantly waste or in pasture cannot be stated. That belonging to the Earl of Seafield is about 8280 imperial acres in extent, and to the Duke of Richmond 625. All the properties united do not exceed 12,000 acres. Though cultivation is, in a great measure, confined to the more level ground near to the river, there are portions of the hill districts carefully improved, and not at all unproductive. In particular, the defile called the Glen of Rothes, through which the road from Elgin, the county town, is conducted, and which is hemmed in on either side by lofty ridges of mountain, contains several good farms in a high state of cultivation, yielding abundant crops of grain. The quantity of land in the parish still remaining waste or in pasture, which, with a profitable application of capital, might be added to what is already cultivated, does not exceed 300 imperial acres. The number of acres in a state of undivided common is 625, which belong wholly to the Duke of Richmond, and are pastured upon in common by the cattle belonging to His Grace's tenants of Inchberry. The average rent of the land per acre in the whole parish is about £1, and the valued rent is £2497, 2s. 8d.

The number of imperial acres on Lord Seafield's estates in the parish, which are cultivated or occasionally in tillage, extends to about 2200. The extent of hill, moor, and moss ground, which never has been in cultivation, and which remains constantly waste or in pasture, is about 8280 acres. The quantity of land still remaining waste or in pasture, and which, with a profitable application of capital, might be added to the cultivated land, does not exceed 200 acres imperial. On this property, there is no undivid-

* As an instance of the success consequent on honest and laborious industry, which is characteristic of steady and prudent Scotchmen, we may here mention somewhat of the history of Dr J. Simpson, of Worcester, a native of the parish. Having finished his education at the University and King's College of Aberdeen, he left the place of his nativity with little more than an empty pocket, and the wide world before him. He proceeded to England, entered upon the profession of an academical teacher, and by his prudence, diligence, and perseverance, blessed by Heaven, accumulated a very considerable fortune. The greater part of this fortune he bequeathed, at his death, to the University of Aberdeen, and £500 to each of the parish schools of Rothes and Keith, for the purposes of education. He died little more than a year ago.

ed common. The number of acres under wood, which is almost wholly planted, extends to 520. The wood consists chiefly of Scots fir and larch, which are particularly thriving, and of which a considerable part is nearly advanced to maturity.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

The old church and churchyard of Dundurcus, the former in ruins, are to be seen not far from the Spey, about two miles from the village of Rothes, and occupy an interesting and attractive situation on the verge of a piece of table-land overlooking the fertile haugh of Dundurcus. Only the walls of the church remain, and the burial-ground is enclosed with a substantial wall, which was built a few years ago, at the expense of the late Dr John Simpson. The present parish church stands in the centre of the village, and is a plain, simple, and unadorned edifice, well befitting the unassuming genius and humble character of our Presbyterian form; and, being the only place of worship in the parish, (for there are no Dissenters within its bounds), is barely sufficient to accommodate the population of the parish. The benefice is one of the smallest, L.37, 18s. being paid out of the Exchequer. This disadvantage is, however, in some measure, compensated by the annexation of the glebe of Dundurcus to that of Rothes, making in all nearly twenty acres of excellent arable land. About the year 1630, Mr John Wemyss, brother to the Earl of Wemyss, and minister of the parish, made a private agreement with the proprietors, fixing the stipend at L.20, 12s., and 45 bolls of meal. The stipend was augmented, in 1812, to 71 bolls, 3 firlots, 3 pecks victual, half meal and half barley, and L.52, 12s. 10d. Sterling. The sum paid by the Exchequer to raise the said stipend to L.158, 6s. 8d. which includes allowance for communion elements, is, as already said, L.37, 18s. Two-thirds of the right of patronage to the living belong to the Earl of Seafield, and the remaining one-third to the Crown, in consequence of the annexation just alluded to. The manse is an elegant erection, built about a year ago. It is of the old English or Elizabethan style of architecture, and is very commodious; and, being situated on an eminence skirted with wood, and overhanging the village, is a truly picturesque object in the lovely landscape with which it is surrounded on every side.

Education.—The educational establishments of the parish consist of the parochial school, a female society school, a school having a very small endowment, and two adventure schools. There is also another school, which is to be endowed with a small salary,

about to be established; for which a school-room and school-house are in progress of erection. In the parish school nearly 100 children of both sexes give almost regular attendance throughout the year, and receive instruction in all the branches of a useful education. Besides the maximum salary, the parish schoolmaster enjoys the advantage of the Dick Bequest, which has tended in an eminent degree to enlarge the comforts and raise the *status* of the schoolmasters to whom it is extended. And, moreover, the school has been recently benefited by the legacy of the late Dr J. Simpson, before-mentioned. This, together with the Dick Bequest, may amount to about L.57 or L.58; and the probable amount of fees actually paid to the schoolmaster in the year is about L.32.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The number of poor on the parish roll amounts at present to about 60, who are supported partly by the Sabbath collections raised in the ordinary way, and amounting to about L.60 annually; and partly by the annual proceeds of certain endowments made at different times to the poor by benevolent individuals. By this means, an average annual contribution is raised, for the relief of the poor, of about L.90, which, after deducting certain necessary charges and expenses, yields about an average of L.1, 6s. to each pauper in the year. There is no legal assessment.

Savings' Bank.—There is a National Security Savings' Bank in the parish, which was instituted about two years ago, and is principally managed by the minister and schoolmaster. The amount of money invested in the bank, during the first year, was L.1011, 3s. 4d., and during the same period there was withdrawn L.43, 8s., 2d. The amount invested during the second year is L.624, 15s.; and withdrawn, L.277, 2s. 2d.

There are three markets held in the village every year; the first on the third Thursday of April; the second on the third Wednesday of July; and the third on the third Wednesday of October, for the sale of black-cattle and general business. They are in general well attended.

March 1842.

PARISH OF RAFFORD.

PRESBYTERY OF FORRES, SYNOD OF MORAY.

THE REV. GEORGE MACKAY, A. M., MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name, Boundaries, &c.—THE origin of the name of this parish is not certainly known. It has undergone so many alterations as to defy all attempts at fixing its etymology. In a charter, granted by Pope Innocent to the Bishop of Moray, in the thirteenth century, it is styled Ratheforde; and in another charter of the same period, Rathefd. In records of subsequent dates, it is designated Rathed, Rathat, Raffart, Raffort, Raffard, and Rafford; the last of which is its present orthography. If we were to hazard a conjecture amidst so much uncertainty, we would assign an origin to the name, derived from the situation of the parish, and which is in some measure sanctioned by the high authority of Chalmers. He says,* “The hill forts in Ireland, which are called *Raths* in the Irish language, were the strengths of the ancient Irish; and those raths are similar in their site and structure to the hill forts of the ancient Britons. The raths were placed on the summits of hills.” If, therefore, we give a Celtic origin to the name, and take into consideration the eminences around this place, adapted for strengths or keeps, we may perhaps arrive at as reasonable a conjecture as may be formed on the subject.

Extent, &c.—The length of the parish is about 8 miles; its breadth varying from 3 to 5. It is bounded on the east, by the parishes of Alves and Elgin; on the north, by Kinloss and Forres; on the west, by the river Findhorn; and on the south, by Dallas and Edenkillie. It is of a very irregular figure, and is intersected near its northern extremity by a narrow neck of the parish of Forres, which stretches for two miles into the interior; while it again encroaches on what might be supposed to be the proper boundaries of that parish, and reaches a point not farther

* Chalmers's Caledonia, Vol. i. p. 95.

than a quarter of a mile from the burgh of that name. This arbitrary division can be accounted for, in this and similar instances, only by a desire on the part of the authorities of the time, not to divide the estates of the several proprietors, but to place them, in such cases as admitted of it, under one and the same spiritual jurisdiction.

Topographical Appearances.—The face of the country is very much diversified; the lower part being of a character quite distinct from the upper; the one partaking of all the characteristics of a lowland country, while the other assumes the bolder features of Highland scenery. The centre presents the appearance of an extensive undulating valley, diversified by moorland, lochs, wood, and well cultivated fields. Whilst it possesses this variety within itself, there are points affording the most extensive views of the adjacent counties. From the towers of the Castles of Burgie and Blervie, and the intended site of a new mansion-house at Altyre, the eye embraces a range more extended than is often to be met with; comprehending the counties of Banff, Inverness, Ross, Cromarty, Sutherland, and Caithness; whilst at our feet lies our own beautiful and fertile province of Moray.

Climate.—The climate of Moray is so well known for its equal temperature and salubrity, that it is unnecessary to dwell upon the subject. It may suffice to say, that it still lays claim to those virtues which Bishop Leslie, himself a Northern, and consequently qualified to draw a comparison between it and other counties around, ascribes to it—"Regio est una, præ cæteris omnibus apud nos, amenitatem celebrata." To this, certainly, this parish forms no exception, of which the following proofs may be given. The present incumbent, at one time, paid considerable attention to the registration of deaths, and the causes and ages of decease. This record he showed to a friend then visiting him, who has a name now honoured in the first of our universities, and distinguished for his philanthropy, and acquaintance with the "annals of the poor." This gentleman was struck with the frequency of cases of extreme old age recorded, and declared that he had not met with any thing so favourable to the salubrity of the climate, except in the bills of mortality in some of the valleys of Switzerland.*

* Whether it was owing to information derived from this source, or from another, is unknown, but it so happened, that, some years ago, an application was made to the same incumbent, by persons embarking in a Tontine speculation, to furnish them with some of the best lives above seventy-five. This was done, with a special recommendation in favour of one individual, although he had attained his seventy-eighth

There were at one time three individuals under one roof, whose united ages amounted to the extraordinary number of 298 years. And at present, out of the comparatively small population of the parish, we have now, or had since the commencement of the year, twelve persons, none of whom are under eighty-two years of age, and several of whom have attained to eighty-eight; while in many of those who range between seventy and eighty, there are none of the symptoms to be met with of extreme old age.

Hydrography.—There are several lochs in the parish. The most important, and certainly the most interesting, is the Loch of the Romach, which forms a part of the southern boundary of the parish. Its extreme length is about a mile, whilst its breadth may be about one-eighth of a mile; but what it wants in space is compensated by the romantic nature of its situation. It is formed by very precipitous banks on both sides, in a district naturally wild and desolate, and lies entirely concealed till it bursts upon the view, and the visitor finds himself at once translated to a region where he may recreate himself according to his mood, either in wandering along the well-formed walks, or in pursuing his pastime of fishing for the trout, in which the loch abounds. A streamlet issues from it, which takes the name of the Back Burn, and which, afterwards increased, winds down the valley of Pluscarden, famed for its fertility and stately priory. The loch of the Blairs, or loch of the moss, also on the estate of Altyre, has been considerably enlarged by the proprietor, and, having been stocked with trout, is now rendered useful as well as ornamental to his grounds. The loch of Tulloch, on the estate of Blervie, has, on the other hand, of late years, been much reduced in size, it having been found necessary to drain it for the purpose of reclaiming a flat of moss which surrounds it. The Findhorn, we have already said, bounds the parish, and is the only river in it. That portion of it to which we have to refer, is that where its devastating power has been least felt, whilst its beauties are here principally concentrated. Being confined by lofty and precipitous rocks, it rushes through the narrow passes, boiling and tumultuous, or reposes in the dark and deep pools it has formed; while plants, and shrubs, and lofty trees crown the steep heights, and finely contrast their

year; and the minister had the satisfaction, in consequence of this person being selected, to attest for many succeeding years his firm tenure of life; while he himself was unconscious that any interest was attached to its duration beyond his own humble sphere. At length his good old friend could keep his hold no longer, and with him ended this episode in our parish history.

variegated foliage with the deep-red of the cliffs on which they grow. It is here also that this river has gained a notoriety for being the most rapid and dangerous of any in Scotland, oftentimes after rain coming down from the gorges above breast-high, and overtaking the passenger before he is aware of the danger. The burns of Altyre and Rafford partake very much of the same character. The declivities through which they pass are so rapid, and their course lies so much through deposits of gravel, that they are continually inundating the plains below with debris, which is a constant annoyance and expense to those through whose lands they run. On the 6th August 1838, the whole region of the source and course of the latter burn was visited by a water-spout, more appalling, and more destructive in its effects, than any thing ever witnessed in the memory of any one now living amongst us. Sweeping bridges in its progress, and breaking down the banks, it covered the plain below with sand and gravel to the extent of several acres, and, in some places, to the depth of four feet. By this overwhelming calamity, the glebe, then bearing a beautiful crop of wheat, was rendered useless; and, but for the liberality of the heritors, who at a great expense carried away in part, and in part trenched down the deposit, it would have been for ever lost to the cure.

Geology and Mineralogy.—The geology of the parish has, in common with the rest of the province, been lately defined in a map which accompanies “Sketches of the Geology of Moray by Patrick Duff, Esq.” This unpretending but very able manual has appeared seasonably for the guidance of the uninitiated in that science, which is now occupying so much of the attention of the learned, and for prosecuting which this province offers so favourable a field. The parish does not differ in its formations from the surrounding district, lying either on a bed of gneiss, or of grey and red sandstone. There is one point on the burn of Altyre where these different formations are seen to unite, and which lately attracted the observation of M. Agassiz, who visited the spot. We believe that the future will open new discoveries of an important nature in this department, through the zeal and talent of Lady Gordon Cumming, who has already done much for the interests of this science; and of whom it has been well said, “that, while others may advance it by their graphic descriptions, hers has been the higher accomplishment of delineating, with unrivalled skill,

the fossil remains of a former world, and exhibiting them to the senses and mind in their primitive forms and colours."

Of the two quarries mentioned in the former Account, one, that of freestone, which is of a coarse gritty texture, is still wrought, and furnishes materials for common ruble work ; the other, that of gray slate, though not exhausted, is now not used,—the coarse slate which it furnished, and which was at that time very commonly used in roofing, being now superseded by the imported Easdale or Ballachulish blue slate. The writer is not aware that any attempts have been made to ascertain the existence of marl in the bottom of those mosses which were formerly under water ; but, if he were to conclude from corresponding indications witnessed elsewhere, he would say that it was by no means improbable, **that** the experiment might be followed with success. A small sum expended in boring might put within reach a manure admirably adapted to the prevailing soil of the district.

The soils are various, consisting of a deep rich clay, a light sand, a black loam on rock, moss, and the more common brown shallow mould lying on what is called " Moray coast," which is a compact stratum of upheaved attrite gravel. Of the moss land, considerable tracts have been recovered, within these thirty years. Some of these have well repaid the improvement. The writer has had, on a portion of moss thus recovered, wheat weighing 63 lbs. per bushel ; and, although these moss lands are by no means equally productive, yet there can be no doubt that their recovery from water and waste tend much to the value of property, inasmuch as the draining necessary to them has served to carry off the superfluous water of the higher lands. In these mosses, large logs of oak and fir are everywhere to be found, evidently indicating that they had grown from the original soil before the moss began to be formed,—the remains of the *Sylva Caledonia* of Tacitus, and the retreat of wolves and other wild beasts before men ventured to contest the possession with them. We must not omit, in speaking of soils, a peculiarity more marked in this parish than in any place round, although not confined to it. It is that, contrary to the usual case of the heights feeding the valleys below, the deeper soils are to be met with in the lands placed at the highest elevation. This is to be seen at the Castles of Bargie and Blervie, the lands of Cluny, belonging to Lord Moray, and of Phorp, on the estate of Altyre ; in each of which

the disadvantages of climate, in consequence of a high elevation, are more than compensated by the fertility of the soil. What may be still more difficult of explanation is, that, in such cases, the more fertile lands lie generally to the north, shaded from those genial influences to which we are accustomed to ascribe fertility and abundance.

Zoology.—We are not aware that any very rare animals haunt or frequent the parish. The red-deer or stag is occasionally to be seen. The roe-deer is frequently to be met with, and parties of sportsmen are sometimes formed for a battle.

We must be content to give only a few of the most remarkable birds. Of a predatory nature, we have the kite, the buzzard, the moor-harrier, the hen-herrier, the merlin, the kestrel, the sparrowhawk, the raven, the carrion-crow, the hooded-crow, the rook, the jack-daw, and the magpie. Of owls, we have the long-eared owl, the short-eared owl, and the white owl. Of the legitimate objects of interest to sportsmen, we have the pheasant, no longer so rare as to be considered sacred; blackcock, an occasional visitant, when driven by deep snow from his alpine retreats; red grouse or moorfowl, the partridge, the golden plover, the lapwing, and the corncrake. Of water-fowl, we have the wild-goose, now merely halting on their way to well known remote lochs, or passing over our heads, in regular array; the heron, which may be seen wading in pursuit of prey in solitary marshes, or flapping his way towards his social home in the Findhorn; the wild-duck, the woodcock, the water-rail, the water-hen, &c.

There is no variety of fishes beyond what is common to all small lakes or lochs, although the trout of each has its peculiar character of shape and colour. They may all be said to be remarkably delicate.

Adders are sometimes to be met with in the woods; they may, however, be said to be scarce. The largest specimens occurring are about two feet in length. They are considered venomous.

Botany.—Mr Gordon's *Collectanea* for the Flora of Moray, published in 1839, which is the most obvious source of information respecting the localities of Morayshire plants, mentions very few stations within the parish of Rafford. In the absence of other materials, the names of a few have been selected from that work; they are known to be indigenous, or found in the parish, though scarcely entitled to be called rare.

Veronica montana
Circæa alpina
Bromus secalinus
Borago officinalis
Primula veris
Solanum Dulcamara

Convolvulus arvensis
Myrrhis odorata
Adoxa moschatellina
Chrysosplenium alternifolium
Arenaria trinervis
Potentilla Fragariastrum

Erysimum Alliaria
Geranium sanguineum
Astragalus glycyphyllos
Petasites vulgaris
Sparganium natans

The hills, moors, marshes, old woods, &c. of the parish, if accurately explored, would, undoubtedly, furnish a much longer list of plants, possessing greater interest to the botanist than those mentioned above.

The plantations are chiefly of Scotch fir, (*Pinus sylvestris*); and larch, (*Larix*); to both of which, particularly the latter, the soil seems well adapted, and both attain to a considerable size. There are larches planted by the late Sir Alexander Cumming of Altyre, now standing; the value of which, at the usual rate at which the cubic foot is sold, is about L.5; and the present Baronet, who has, for the last thirty years, been faithfully obeying the dying advice of the Scotch laird to his son,* has the satisfaction of seeing, in the large plantations of this valuable wood, formed by himself, trees of 20 inches diameter at the root, and tapering in beautiful proportion to a height of 40 feet. The oaks, of the same age, are commonly 12 inches. If, as Dr Johnson says, "that man is the greatest benefactor of his species, who makes two stalks of corn to grow where there was only one," some praise may be due to one, who, yet in his prime, has redeemed from waste, either to the culture of the plough, or the scarce less profitable appliance of planting every foot of his patrimonial inheritance. Of old wood, there are some noble specimens in the parish. In the garden of Burgie, there is a large sycamore (*Acer-Pseudo-platanus*), measuring 14 feet in girth; while the diameter of its ramification, which is equally clustering and umbrageous on every side, is fully 80 feet. Such a "monarch of the woods" is rarely to be seen. In the same place, there is an oak (*Quercus robur*), the circumference of which measures 11 feet. But perhaps the most noble specimens of former ages, are the beeches, which surround the remains of that baronial hold, as if in proud mockery of the degeneracy of the present age. Of these there are several rows; each tree, on an average, having a trunk of 10 feet, with fitting head and arms. It is cause of regret, that, when a modern house was judged necessary to be built, a site so begirt with the pomp and circumstance of former times should have been abandon-

* "Be aye sticking in a tree, Jock; it will be growing whilst you are sleeping."

ed, and one preferred which does not distinguish it from the inglorious erections of the present day.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

The parish of Rafford, at one time, comprehended part of that of Kinloss, the latter being formed, partly from Rafford, partly from Alves. In 1661, Altyre, then a distinct parish belonging to the parsonage of Dollas, was by Act of Parliament annexed to Rafford. In the days of Episcopacy, Rafford was the seat of the subchanter of Moray. Reference is made to the parish in the records of the Presbytery of Forres, which commence in 1651. Those of the parish commence in 1668; but are defective during the periods between 1709 and 1722, and between 1733 and 1738. They bear evidence of a discipline more strict than would be tolerated in this age, when all who are disaffected to the Established Church, or feel aggrieved by her discipline, can obtain privileges from Dissenting bodies. Frequent reference is made in them to charges of witchcraft, malison, and exorcism, indicating the prevalence of a superstition, which, we regret to say, is not yet wholly extirpated. The register of births commences in 1682, and is wanting from 1730 to 1738. It cannot be said that any disinclination is evinced to register the births, unless it be in a rare instance among the poorer classes, arising from a wish to evade the small fee.

Eminent Characters.—Dr Alexander Adam, for many years Rector of the High School of Edinburgh, and author of “Roman Antiquities,” “Classical Biography,” &c. was a native of this parish, and received the first rudiments of his education at the parish school. Dr Duncan Shaw, son of the well-known author of the History of the Province of Moray, was minister of the parish from 1753 to 1783. Towards the latter end of that period, he was elected to the Moderatorship of the General Assembly, and was translated to the East Church of Aberdeen, in which charge he died. He was a man of cultivated mind, and of pleasing manners, possessing in no ordinary degree the affections of the people. He published several works, which are respectable proofs of his literary research and taste, viz. “A comparative View of the several methods of promoting Religious Instruction,” 2 vols.—“the History of Gamaliel”—“the History of the Jews”—“the Centurion.”*

* Although not of eminence, yet if respect and honour, beyond the ordinary lot of men, the consequence of unblemished character and useful exertion, claim notice in a record of this kind, a place is due here to Mr George Fiddes, long the laborious and successful schoolmaster of this parish. Besides doing much for the cultivation

Land-owners.—The land-owners are, according to their valued rent, Robert Tulloch, Esq. of Burgie; Sir William G. G. Cumming of Altyre and Gordonston, Bart.; the Earl of Moray; and the Earl of Fife. The valued rent is L.2628, 4s. 11d.; the real rental about L.3784.

Antiquities.—The most remarkable piece of antiquity in the parish is the celebrated obelisk called Sweno's Stone, which stands on the property of the Earl of Moray, about half a mile eastward of the town of Forres. It has been so often described, and its origin has been the subject of so many conjectures, that nothing new can now be advanced. Warlike instruments of various kinds have been dug up in the field where it stands; but no distinct tradition exists of a battle having been fought on or near the spot. The following accurate description of the obelisk is taken from Rhynd's "Past and present State of Moray, (pages 127, 128, and 129).

"The Forres Pillar, commonly called Sweno's Stone, is situated about half a mile to the east of Forres, on the north side of the highway, and occupies the position in which, in all probability, it originally was placed. The stone steps around the base are modern, and were placed as supports to the pillar by a late Countess of Moray, Lady Anne Campbell. It has a hard sandstone 23 feet in height above ground, and said to be 12 feet more below ground. The breadth at the base is 4 feet; the thickness about 15 inches. On the south side there are five divisions, each filled up by numerous figures cut in relief.

"The first division represents a number of persons as if engaged in deep council, and holding conversation, in groups, probably the back ground representing the walls of some hall or fortification. The second division exhibits an army of horse and foot on the march, the cavalry being in the van, and at full gallop, the infantry following with spears in their hands, and shields. In the third division are appearances of a battle, both single combats, and general fighting. In one corner are several decapitated bodies lying, piled the one on the other; while at the top of this division troops are seen entering the gates of a city, or it may be besieging it. The

of the youth in the place, his school was resorted to by great numbers from Forres, many of whom have since done credit to his training by their advancement in the world, and occupying places of trust; whilst his piety and wisdom secured to him, among the people, a measure of moral influence rarely attained even by the ministerial character. He is here held up principally with the view of proving to those in similar situations, how much good may possibly be done within their sphere, and how certain is the reward of exertion, not confined to their official duty, but embracing every object connected with the spiritual good of the community.

fourth division shows a number of captives bound together, some naked, and apparently females, others clothed in short jackets; while a row of warriors above, with unsheathed swords, are shouting victory. The last division is very obscure; but it gives indications of horsemen either returning as conquerors from the battle, or retreating as beaten fugitives.

“ The other, or north side of the stone, has only three divisions. Below are two figures with human heads, though their bodies are rather of grotesque forms, typical, perhaps, of priests bending over something, as in an attitude of prayer; while a smaller human figure stands behind each. All these figures have a broad cap on their heads, while the warriors on the other side are all bareheaded. In the division above, is a long cross, the arms at the top being within a circle. The cross, and the entire spaces of the middle division, are filled up by the most ingenious carving, representing the intricate and endless convolutions of the Runic knot. The edges of the stone are also occupied by these Runic knots, and evidently show the elaborate art of the sculptors. At the base of one of the edges of the stone are several figures, apparently females.” The following extract from Gordon’s “ *Itinerarium Septentrionale* ” will show the most generally received opinion of the date and origin of this curious relic of the olden time, page 159. “ That these obelisks were erected for victories gain’d over the Danes, I have very good reason to believe, but cannot, from the history of their invasions on Scotland, learn that any victory was ever gain’d by the Scots in that country: On the contrary, we have already shown, that in the reign of Malcomb, when Olavus Scandianus, and Enecus, the Danish generals, were sent into Scotland by Sueno, they pitched their camp in Murray, and gain’d a very considerable victory over the Scots, taking possession of the castles of Nairn, Forres, and Elgin, which obliged Malcomb to retire into other parts of the kingdom. Why this obelisk was rais’d, or how to explain the several figures thereon, I am at a loss, but cannot forbear thinking that it was erected by the Scots after the battle of Murtloch; for the Danes having gain’d the afore-mention’d victory in Murray, design’d to settle themselves, and families, in that country, being one of the pleasantest and most fruitful provinces of Scotland; and accordingly sent their ships back to bring their wives and children over. But their affairs taking a different turn, by the battle of Murtlach, they were oblig’d not only to leave all thoughts of settling there, but entire-

ly to quit the kingdom. The Scots, therefore, seem to have erected this obelisk, as a monument not only of the battle of Murtloch, which oblig'd their enemies to quit the kingdom, but as an evidence of the disappointment the Danes met with, in their hopes of settling in that particular corner of Scotland. The tradition concerning this stone favours my conjecture, it being still call'd King Sueno's Stone; Olavus and Enecus, the Danish generals at Murtloch, being sent thither by Sueno."

There is a stone of a similar description at Altyre, found, it is said, about Duffus, and now placed in the grounds here. It contains simply a cross crosslet, resembling Sueno's stone in having its middle part greatly elongated. There appear to be faint marks of Runic knots on this stone, or other carvings. Its height is fifteen feet.

On the height immediately north of the manse stand the remains of the ancient Castle of Blervie, the seat of a branch of the once powerful family of the Dunbars. Its name, some centuries ago, was written Blare; and it has subsequently undergone the various alterations of Blarie, Blarvie, Blairvie, and Blervie. It consisted of an oblong building, with a square tower at its west corner. In one of the angles between these a spiral stair led up to the top of the tower. Over the fire-place of the old hall is the date 1398. The tower, of five stories, and the staircase, are now all that remain. The principal part of the building was taken down to build the present house of Blervie. At the height of a few feet from the ground, a breach of about a foot was made all round in the building, and its place filled with turf and other combustibles. The latter were then set on fire and consumed; but such was the strength of the old masonry, that the large pile of building, attached but by one corner to the tower, stood for three hours afterwards without falling. Although at one period the whole district of Moray belonged to the Dunbars, there is no tradition respecting the family of Blervie. The property about the beginning of the last century was purchased by Alexander Mackintosh, who was "Laird of Blairie" in 1713 and 1724. From him it was purchased by William, Earl of Fife, and is now the property of the Earl of that name.

The Castle of Burgie bears the date "1602 zeiris," with the family armorial bearings, and the initials of the laird and lady of that day on the mantel of what was the great hall. The estate came to the Dunbars by Katherine Reid, niece of the last Abbo of Kinloss,

who was married to Alexander Dunbar, first laird of Burgie of that name. To the castle a more commodious house was added in 1702; but along with the original great hall, it was, in 1802, taken down to build the present mansion-house. The strength of the building was such, that the detaching of the stone from the mortar or lime cost more than the quarrying of new materials would have done. A square tower similar to that of Blervie, but more elegant, still remains.

On the Burgie estate have been discovered several ancient coffins, each formed of five slabs of undressed freestone. The last was found in 1841. Its length was three feet, breadth two feet, and depth two feet one inch. It contained a skeleton, in a sitting posture, the head resting on the knees, which, on exposure to the air, fell to pieces. It contained also, as did the others discovered, an urn of clay, of very rough workmanship, rudely ornamented with the representation of spiral shells, ten inches by seven. In this coffin alone were found ornaments, of a jet black substance, resembling cannel coal. Two rhomboidal pieces measured two inches by one, and an eighth of an inch in thickness. These, with two smaller pieces of the same shape, and two of a triangular form, had small holes neatly drilled in them, through which appear to have passed cords, attaching them to about 100 large beads; the whole fixed to a ring two-and-a-half inches in diameter. The appearance of the bones and the ornaments seemed to indicate that the grave had been that of a female of rank. None of these graves were surmounted by cairns, of which, notwithstanding, there are many in the parish. Small mounds occur in various places, composed of pieces of stone, about the size of road-metal, and having the appearance of exposure to the action of fire. Mixed with these is a very black mould, which, on minute inspection, is found to contain small pieces of burnt wood. On removing one of these, on a warm summer morning, the workmen were sensible of a heavy sickening smell, like that which is sometimes felt on opening a grave. The cairns are found in the higher parts of the parish, and are by the common people thought to mark out the former rude attempts of agriculture, when these stones were gathered, in order to lay the circumjacent parts under cultivation; it being farther supposed, that only these patches of the higher ground were cultivated, whilst the valleys were covered with wood. This, however, is disproved by the fact, that, when opened, they present the relics of human bodies. Their origin is entirely un-

known. Near Blervie Castle, are four large stones, erect, and forming a square; they are known by the name of the Temple Stones, and are evidently the remains of a Druidical temple. In a piece of soft moss ground, on the Burgie estate, a number of ancient querns were found, probably hid there, when multures and thirlage were enforced by law, and the use of the quern forbidden.

Family of Cumming of Altyre.—The family of the Cummings of Altyre can be traced to a very ancient date, and, at one time, held very large possessions in this country. Pont, or Gordon of Straloch, who, on Pont's decease, was engaged to complete the *Theatrum Scotiæ*, gives this testimony as to their former power. “Altyr ad Cuminios spectans, quæ gens ante trecentos annos omnium Scotiæ nobilium, et supra omnes Scotorum proceres potentissima et numerissima.” And he goes on to describe the extent of their possessions. “Tenuerat ea gens Buquhanix maximam partem, Strathbogiam universam, Balvanian, Badenochiam, Lochabriam, Atholiam multaque alia in his oris. Multaque quoque in australibus nostri regni provinciis, quæ mihi non nunc occurrunt.” The family of the Cummings, or Comyns, were settled in Britain before the Conquest. The first Scotch nobleman of the name on record, is Robert Comyn, who fell along with his sovereign, Malcolm Canmore, in 1093. There are references to this family, continuously, in charters to which we have access. In 1296, July 26, Sir Alexander Cumyn, Knight, swore fealty to Edward apud Elgin, in Moravia. On 4th September 1296, Edward I. assigned thirty merks of legal extent to Alexander Cumyn of Badenoch. This Alexander was slain at Dumfries, by Robert Bruce, with his brother, John Cumyn of Badenoch, on the 10th February 1306.

His family seem, at that time, to have resided at Darnaway; as, in 1368, a charter is given by David to Richard Comyn of the office of forest of Tarneway, &c.; and, in 1671, at a court held at Perth by Robert II. Richard Comyn resigns the Castle of Tarneway to Thomas the Graunt, son of John the Graunt, in the presence of the King, for their faithful and praiseworthy service to Thomas Ranulph, Earl of Moray, and Thomas and John, his sons, Earl of Moray, our cousin; “et quas terras, &c. per compositionem amicabilem finaliter concordati, non vi aut metu ducti, nec errore lapsi, sed mera spontanea concordia et unanimi voluntate.”

It would appear, that, about this time, the family settled at Altyre, inasmuch as, that, in 1398, Alexander Comyn is witness to an excambion of the lands of Mondole, Balnageith, &c. for the lands of Leuchars in Fife, by the Duke of Albany. 1408, Alexander Cumyne gives a band man rent to Thomas Dunbar Earl of Moray, for his guid will to his marriage with his sister Euphemia. In 1456, Thomas Comyn surrendered the mill of Altyre to the Prior of Pluscarden, on being threatened with excommunication, though he had always been informed that it previously belonged to him, *jure hereditario*.

In 1672, Robert Cuming, laird of Altyre, gave his band to the Council of Scotland, for the peace of the Highlands.

In 1657, he married Lucy Gordon, daughter of Sir Ludovick of Gordonston, through whom the estate of Gordonston devolved on Alexander Penrose Cumming of Altyre, on the death of Sir William Gordon of Gordonston, Bart. in 1795.

He thereupon assumed the name and arms of Gordonston, and was created a Baronet of Great Britain in 1804. This succession was afterwards confirmed by the House of Lords, after a long and ineffectual litigation. The family is now represented by Sir William G. G. Cumming, his son.

There is a hill at Altyre which still goes by the name of the Gallow-Hill, where, in former times, the sentences passed at the Baron Court of Altyre were executed. An examination of the "Barron Court" Book serves, however, to show that the proceedings partook more of the observance of form and of dispassionate endeavours to investigate the truth than we are wont to ascribe to this court, and that, although punishment was inflicted in a way so prompt and summary as to stand in bold contrast with the lenity of the judicial code of this day, yet the accused was not altogether without protection. They do not appear to have attained to the perfection of "Jeddart justice." We subjoin a judgment of the "Barron Court of Altyre, holden near the place thereof, be the Right Honorable Alexander Cuming of Altyre, and William Cumming, younger of Craigmiln, his bailzie, upon the 16th day of September 1697 years. "John Macgillichallom, theiff and robber, haveing been indicted, as within written, and haveing acknowledged, as is within espresst, the persons of assyze finding him guiltie, the sds judges appoints and decerns the said pannell to be hanged upon Teusday next to the death, upon the gallows erected upon the Gallow Hill of Altyre, and yt betwixt the hours of two and four

in the afternoon, be the hands of John Gowie, publick executioner, and this is given to him for doom. W. CUMING."

III.—POPULATION.

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|------|
| Amount of the population in 1755, | . | 1313 |
| 1791, | . | 1072 |
| 1821, | . | 970 |
| 1831, | . | 992 |
| 1841, | . | 987 |

Of late years, the principal cause of its decrease has been the uniting of a number of small farms into one. It is hoped that the reduction, from this cause, has now reached its lowest degree, and that our proprietors are convinced that they need not, for any prudential reasons, enlarge their farms; but that their rents are as surely forthcoming from a L.40 farm as from one of L.400.

The yearly average of births for the last seven years may be stated at 16; that of marriages at 8; number of families, 200; average number of children in each family, 4. There are two fatuous persons in the parish, but none insane; one blind; none deaf and dumb. The people enjoy, in a reasonable degree, the comforts and advantages of society, and are, in general, moral, religious, contented, and industrious.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.—

| | |
|---|------|
| Number of acres, standard imperial measure, either cultivated or occasionally in tillage, | 3550 |
| Number of acres which have never been cultivated, and which remain constantly waste or in pasture, | 2942 |
| Number of acres that might, with a profitable application of capital, be added to the cultivated land of the parish, whether afterward to be kept in occasional tillage or permanent pasture, | 280 |
| Number of acres under wood, natural or planted, | 3695 |

Rent of Land.—The average rent of arable land per acre is L.1, 5s. The average rent of grazing for an ox or cow, L.2.

Wages, &c.—Average rates of different kinds of farm-labourers; for a grieve or principal servant, L.14 per annum, with a house; and for ploughmen, from L.10 to L.12, with food; for women, L.4 to L.5, with do. Wages of a mason per day, 2s. 6d.; carpenter, 2s. Price of butter, 10d. to 1s. 3d. per lb.; cheese, 3d. per lb.; eggs, 3d. to 6d. per dozen; fowls, 1s. each.

Live-Stock.—The former common breed of sheep, small horn Scotch white-faced, is now very much superseded by the Cheviots or crosses, which, of course, repay better for winter feeding. Of cattle, we have Highland, polled Aberdeenshire, and short-horned. Much attention has, of late, been paid to the improvement of these several breeds, and has been evidently productive of the desired

effect, as many of the prizes from agricultural societies are awarded to this parish.

Husbandry.—The system of husbandry commonly pursued is the six-course shift, which is thus arranged : 1. year, grass ; 2. grass ; 3. wheat ; 4. oats ; 5. turnips or potatoes ; 6. barley. There are instances, although not required by any conditions of lease, of the farmers preferring the fifth course, which does away with oats succeeding wheat, or two continuous white crops. Draining is carried on to a considerable extent, and a good deal of waste land has been reclaimed. Perhaps the principal improvement recently introduced is the draining of the moss of Tarras, by means of which, and of other operations of a like kind, from 200 to 300 acres have lately been added to the cultivated land of the parish. Farther improvements might be made in this respect. Indeed, all obstacles to improvement are in a fair way of being overcome by the increased activity of the tenantry. The only thing required is adequate remuneration on the part of the landlord for reclaiming lands. Were the proprietors to grant a fair allowance to the tenant at the end of the lease for every acre taken in, the benefit would be theirs as well as the tenants, in the improved state of their properties. The duration of leases is nineteen years, which is considered equally favourable to the tenant, and to the land. The farm-buildings are generally substantial and in good repair ; but no enclosures are used except palings, and, in most instances, none at all. Thrashing-mills are now almost universal.

Produce.—The average gross amount of raw produce, as nearly as can be ascertained, is as follows :—

| | | | | |
|---|---|---------|---|---|
| For grain of all kinds, at L.5, 10s. per Scotch acre, | - | L.7700 | 0 | 0 |
| For hay and pasture, at L.2, 10s. per do. | - | 2325 | 0 | 0 |
| For turnips, at L.4, 10s. per do. | - | 2097 | 0 | 0 |
| For wood, from felling, &c. | - | 550 | 0 | 0 |
| Quarries, | - | 13 | 0 | 0 |
| Total, | | L.12685 | 0 | 0 |

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Market-Town.—There is no market town in the parish. The nearest is Forres, distant from the church about two and a half miles. The parish contains no village of any size. Forres is also the nearest post-town.

Means of Communication.—The length of turnpike roads is three and a-half miles. On the road between Elgin and Forres, which intersects the parish for about three miles, there run daily a mail-coach and two stages ; these, however, pass only through

the northern extremity of the parish, and there is no coach or carrier on the other road. There is a road in continuation of the road to Craigmiln in Dollas, now carrying on beyond the bounds of the parish, through Dollas and Knockando—a part of the contemplated direct line from Perth—which promises to be of great advantage, as opening an intercourse with the lower districts of the Spey, even if not prosecuted farther than to its banks; whilst in the accomplishment of the greater object, viz. its being carried on to Perth, it would shorten the distance to that central point fully forty miles, and make this the direct line of communication between Morayshire and the capital.

The bridges on the Rafford burn were all swept away by the flood formerly referred to, and have not been rebuilt; those on the Altyre burn are in a state of good repair, and highly ornamental to the scenery, especially the one at Craigroy, than which, a more picturesque object is scarcely to be met with.

Ecclesiastical State.—The church is nearly central, and is distant not more than four miles from any part of the parish. It was built in 1826, is a handsome and commodious structure, in the Gothic style, from a plan furnished by Gillespie Graham, Esq., and affords accommodation for 600 sitters. The sittings are all free. The manse, built in 1817, is a good substantial house, and every necessary repair has been given to it by the heritors, from time to time; but, having been found to be inadequate for the accommodation of a very large family, it was, about two years ago, very considerably enlarged by the present incumbent, at his own expense. The extent of the glebe, exclusive of the ground occupied by the manse, garden, and offices, is about four acres, and its yearly value L. 8. The stipend awarded by decreet of the Court of Teinds in 1822, is 14 chalders, with L. 10 for a grass glebe, and L. 8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements, unexhausted teinds, L. 111, 17s. 6d. The patron of the parish is James Campbell Brodie, Esq. of Lethen. There are no chapels of Ease, Government churches, Missionaries, Catechists, Seceding or Dissenting chapels of any denomination within the parish. Eight families, or their heads, attend Dissenting chapels in the neighbouring parish of Forres; one family alone attends the Episcopal chapel there. The number of families, therefore, attending the Established Church may be about 190; the number of persons of all ages, 500 to 600; the average number of communicants is 140.

There are no Societies for religious purposes established in the parish, but collections are annually made for the various schemes of the General Assembly. The average annual amount of church collections for all purposes, religious and charitable, is L.50. Besides these, cases frequently occur of a public and private nature, for which subscriptions are raised, and to which the people contribute liberally.

Education, &c.—There are four schools in the parish, one parochial and endowed, and three unendowed, and supported entirely by the fees of the pupils. The salary of the parochial schoolmaster is the maximum, with an allowance for a garden. He likewise enjoys the benefit of the bequest under the management of the Dick Trustees. Fees about L.16 per annum. He is also session-clerk. The parochial school-house affords the legal accommodation; but is in such a state as to demand inquiry whether it be adequate to sustain the growing reputation of the school, or in good keeping with the increased comforts of every dwelling around. No additional schools are consequently required.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The average number of persons receiving parochial aid is 36, and the average sum allotted to each, 15s. There is a capital stock of L.100; and the annual amount of contributions strictly for their relief, including other sessional disbursements, is about L.40. No recourse has been had as yet to assessments, nor do we desire to see that day. The poor people still retain a good deal of that, perhaps, peculiarly Scottish feeling, which inclines them to make parochial relief their very last resource. In truth, the destitution is in many cases great, before that is resorted to.

Fairs.—Two fairs annually are held within the parish, one in the beginning of April, the other in the beginning of November. Both are cattle markets.

Inns.—There is but one public-house, a convenience which could not well be dispensed with, and which is under such control as to prevent its being productive of any evil effects. In this respect, never was a parish more indebted to the care of heritors. In several instances in which attempts were made to open additional public-houses, they were resisted by the heritors, who deferred to the opinion of the minister whether they were required or not.

Fuel.—Three descriptions of fuel are used,—peat, wood, and coal. Of the first, there is now a scarcity, owing to the improve-

ment of the mosses. Coal is procured from the port of Findhorn, distant about eight miles, at an expense, including carriage, of 2s. 4d. per barrel. Wood is had at a reasonable rate from the thinnings of plantations.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The greater extent of ground now cultivated, and the immensely improved state of husbandry, constitute, perhaps, the most striking difference between the present state of the parish, and its state at the time of the last Statistical Account. Connected with this, and, in a great measure the cause of this improvement, is the putting down of the former practice of illegal distillation of spirits—than which, surely, never did any thing tend more to degrade and demoralize a people. So prevalent was this twenty years ago, that no disgrace was attached to the practice; and families, in other respects of good repute, carried it on without any compunctions, save those arising from a fear of detection, and consequent punishment. Instead of the midnight watchings, during which excitements cannot be supposed to have been wanting, and habitual deceit resorted to, in order to conceal their practices, we have now the satisfaction of seeing the same people steadily pursuing the improvement of their lands, elevated in their moral tone and bearing, their outward appearance giving evidence of a healthy temperament and ameliorated condition.

March 1842.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ON THE COUNTY OF ELGIN.

THE ancient province of Moray extended from the mouth of the river Spey on the east, to the river Beauly on the west. A line, stretching from Loch Lochy on the south-west, through Lochaber, and following nearly the course of the river Spey, along the base of Cairngorum and Benrinnes, formed its southern boundary, while the Moray Frith terminated it on the north, and separated it from the peninsula of Ross. Moray thus included the whole district of country stretching along the sea-coast; and hence probably the Gaelic derivation of the name *Murar* or *Morar*, the sea-side, from *Mor*, the sea, and *Taobh* or *Tav*, the side.*

The present boundaries of the country are much more circumscribed,—Nairnshire occupying the western, and part of Invernesshire the south and south-western portions of the ancient province. The greatest length from north to south is about forty miles, and its breadth varies from eight to fifteen and twenty-three miles. The northern range of the Grampian mountains, terminating in Benrinnes, which has an elevation of 2300 feet, forms the southern boundary and most elevated part of this county, from whence there is a gradual descent to the sea level by a series of parallel hills intersecting the county from west to east, and valleys between. The hills to the south consist of granite, gneiss, mica-slate, quartz rock, and talcose schist. Within about eight miles of the sea, these primary strata are succeeded by the lower and middle beds of the old red sandstone, containing abundant remains of fishes; and to these beds succeed the upper yellow sandstone of the same formation, with subordinate bands of a nonfossiliferous limestone. Small patches of the lower oolite and lias are also found near Lhanbryde and in the parish of Duffus, containing numerous bivalve shells; and at Linksfield is a fresh-water bed of limestone, analogous to the English Wealden, with remains of fishes, molluscous animals, and Saurian reptiles.†

* Shaw.

† Rhind's "Sketches of Moray," and "Geology of Scotland."

The sandstone hills are of less elevation than the primary ridges, and the whole country gradually slopes towards the shores of the Frith. Hence, the rivers and streams which water the county, as the Spey, Lossie, Lochty, take their rise in the high grounds towards the south, and flow north and north-eastward to the sea.

The plain of Moray consists generally of a light arenaceous soil, interspersed with valleys and tracts of rich alluvium and loam. In the lower district there is a deep clay. From the position of the county along the shores of an estuary; from its slight elevation above the sea level; and from the dry and porous nature of the subsoil,—the climate is genial, and superior to that of the neighbouring counties. The elevated hills to the south carry off much of the atmospheric moisture which would otherwise fall, and the level of the frith extending to the northward, and bounded on the opposite side by a chain of high hills, still farther prevents an excess of rain; while the porous surface readily absorbs, and as readily gives off by evaporation, that moisture, which, stagnating in less favourable localities, renders the surrounding air chill and ungenial. There are few lakes or marshes of any extent in the shire. Lochindorb, in the upper part of the county, is the most considerable. Loch-na-bo, in the vicinity of Elgin, is celebrated for its picturesque beauty. Loch Spynie was of considerable extent, but it is now almost entirely drained. In ancient times, a considerable portion of the low country of Duffus and Drainy appears to have been under the influence of the ocean; and along the coast, there are proofs of an elevation of the land, probably at a comparatively recent period.

The county is decidedly Lowland, and the names, language, and habits of the people, indicate them from a very early period as a distinct race from their Celtic neighbours. They appear to be from the same Scandinavian origin as the natives of the whole eastern shores of Scotland.

The lowland situation of Moray, joined to the amenity of its soil and climate, must have pointed it out as a desirable locality for our first religious establishments. Accordingly, we find, that it was early visited by the Culdees, the first messengers who brought the pure spirit of Christianity from the primitive churches of the east. Subsequently, about the beginning of the eleventh century, numerous religious establishments from Italy, planted the Romish religion in the province, and from that period till the Reformation, the church engrossed the chief sway, and held extensive pos-

sessions in the district. A bishopric was established about the year 1100. The abbey of Kinloss, and the priories of Urquhart Pluscarden, and Kingussie, besides several other religious houses and hospitals, quickly followed, and the province was regularly subdivided into parishes; and churches or chapels were erected in each.

The area of the county includes 840 square miles, or 536,600 acres; of these, 120,000 are under cultivation, chiefly in the lower district of the county, while the remainder is under wood, or pasturage, or unproductive. The population, according to the census of 1841, amounted to 34,994, being an increase of 763 over that of 1831.

The parliamentary constituency is 598.

TABLE I. shewing Ecclesiastical State, &c. of Parishes in County of Elgin.

| Parishes. | Population in 1841. | Ecclesiastical State. | | | | Schools in Par. | Par. Schoolmasters' Emoluments. | | | Annual Amount of Contributions to the Poor. | | | |
|----------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|---|----------|-----------|---|--|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| | | Fams. be- longing to Estab. Ch. | Individuals Do. | Families of Dis-senters or Seceders. | Individuals Do. | | Amount of Parochial Mi- nisters' stipend. | Salary. | Fees. | Total, ex- clusive of Dick Be- quest, &c. | From as- sessment or voluntary contrib. by Heritors. | From Church col- lections. | From Alms, Legacies, &c. |
| Elgin, | 6783 | ... | See text. | ... | ... | 15 ch. & 15 ch. | ... | ... | ... | ... | L.150 0 0 | L.101 0 0 | L.36 0 0 |
| St Andrews, | 1176 | ... | ... | 4 | ... | 128 cwt. oatmeal, &c. | L.27 15 6 | L.10 0 0 | L.37 15 6 | ... | ... | ... | 55 0 0 |
| Duffus, | 2330 | ... | 1900 | ... | ... | 120 bolls barley, &c. | 34 4 4 | 12 0 0 | 46 4 0 | ... | 55 0 0 | ... | 33 19 0 |
| Urquhart, | 1053 | ... | 1058 | ... | 25 | 15 chalders. | 34 4 4 | 8 0 0 | 42 4 0 | ... | 24 0 0 | 9 19 0 | ... |
| Speymouth, | 1773 | ... | 1766 | ... | 7 | 77 bolls, &c. | 29 18 9 | 19 0 0 | 48 18 9 | ... | 33 0 0 | See text. | ... |
| Knockando, | 1632 | 320 | ... | 8 | ... | L.158. | 2 at 251. 13 3 | ... | ... | ... | 30 0 0 | In. of L.60&c. | ... |
| Birnie, | 415 | ... | 410 | ... | 5 | L.104, &c. | 26 0 0 | 4 0 0 | 30 0 0 | ... | 8 0 0 | L.6 3 4 &c. | ... |
| Abernethy, | 1832 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 25 13 3 | 17 0 0 | 42 13 3 | ... | 16 0 0 | ... | ... |
| New Spynie, | 1164 | ... | ... | ... | 36 | 91 bolls, &c. | 34 4 4 | 16 0 0 | 50 4 0 | ... | 20 0 0 | L.11 0 0 | ... |
| Alves, | 910 | See text. | ... | 5 | ... | 14 chalders. | 34 4 4 | ... | ... | ... | 31 0 0 | ... | 45 0 0 |
| Bellie, | 2433 | See text. | ... | ... | ... | L.150 | 34 4 4 | 20 0 0 | 54 4 4 | ... | 52 0 0 | ... | 70 0 0 |
| Duthil, | 1258 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 15 chalders. | 25 13 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | Int. of L. 40. | ... |
| Rothiemurchus, | 521 | ... | ... | 2 | ... | L.120. | 34 4 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 60 0 0 |
| Oranie, | 1517 | ... | ... | Few. | ... | 15 chalders. | ... | ... | ... | ... | 27 16 9 | L.13 18, &c. | ... |
| Forres, | 3720 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 18 chalders. | ... | ... | ... | L.60 0 0 | 80 0 0 | ... | 265 0 0 |
| Edenkillie, | 1233 | 269 | ... | 18 | ... | L.185. | 34 4 4 | 16 0 0 | ... | 10 0 0 | 29 0 0 | ... | ... |
| Dollas, | 1179 | ... | ... | Few. | ... | L.158 6 8 | 34 4 4 | 12 0 0 | ... | ... | 16 4 4 | ... | ... |
| Kinloss, | 1202 | ... | ... | 2 | ... | 66 bolls &c. | 35 0 0 | 12 0 0 | 47 0 0 | ... | 50 0 0 | ... | ... |
| Dyke and Moy, | 1365 | 249 | ... | 46 | ... | 16 chalders. | 34 4 0 | 30 0 0 | 64 4 0 | 10 0 0 | 43 6 8 | In. of L.100&c | 90 0 0 |
| Rothies, | 946 | ... | 946 | ... | ... | L.158. | 34 4 0 | 32 0 0 | 66 4 0 | ... | 60 0 0 | ... | 40 0 0 |
| Rafford, | 987 | 190 | 500 | 9 | ... | 14 chalders, &c. | 34 4 4 | 16 0 0 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |

Table II. shewing the number of persons committed for trial or bailed in the county of Elgin for different offences, during the year 1840.

Offences against persons, 7; do. against property with violence, 5; do. against property without violence, 8; forgery and offences against the currency, 3; other offences, 1; total, 24.

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PARISH OF NAIRN.

PRESBYTERY OF NAIRN, SYNOD OF MORAY.

THE REV. JAMES GRANT, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name, Extent, &c.—THE parish derives its name from the river which runs through it, called in Gaelic *Uisge Nearne*, or Water of Alders, from the great quantity of trees and shrubs of that species of wood which grows upon its banks. From east to west, it measures 6 miles, and from north to south, upwards of 8. The figure somewhat resembles the letter X. In the environs of the town, and along the coast by Delnies, as also about Kildrumie, the soil is light and sandy. On the river side, it consists of sand mixed with a kind of mortar or clay. The south side of the parish is rather of a rich and heavy mould. On the north side of the river, the ground is flat and level; and on the south, it rises with a gradual ascent, terminating, at one corner of the parish, in the hill of Urchany, the only eminence in the parish deserving the name of a hill.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Antiquities, &c.—On the north side of the hill of Geddes, are to be seen the vestiges of an old edifice, about twenty-six yards long, and nearly half as broad. It is called *Caisteil Fionlach*, *i. e.* Finlay's Castle. At the bottom of this little hill, on the south-east, there appears to have been a sunk, or draw-well for the use of the castle. A little to the east, on the side of the same hill of Geddes, are the remains of the Castle of Rait, built probably by Rait of that ilk, but at what period is uncertain. It was for some time the residence of one of the Cummines; and, considering the time at which it seems to have been built, it appears to have been a house of great strength. A little below this castle, is a place called Knock-na-gillan, *i. e.* *the hill where the young men or lads were killed*. Here, it is said that eighteen of the Mackintoshes were destroyed by the Cummines, who then lived at Rait, on ac-

count of some grudge that subsisted between the families. At the place of Easter Geddes, are the remains of an old chapel, with a burying-ground around it. In this chapel is the burying-place of the family of Kilravock; and here they have been interred for many generations back, perhaps ever since the Roses came to this part of Scotland. How long the Roses were in possession of the lands of Geddes, previous to the marriage of the Laird of Geddes with Mary de Bosco, lady and heiress of Kilravock, cannot now with certainty be ascertained, as the writs of the family, relative to that estate, were destroyed in the cathedral church of Elgin, when it was consumed by fire. Lady Kilravock and her husband, Hugh Rose of Geddes, obtained a charter (posterior to the loss of the writs above-mentioned), from King John Baliol, in the year 1293, confirming to them and to their heirs, the lands of Geddes and Kilravock.*

Parochial Registers.—There is a register of baptisms, and one of marriages, both commencing 5th March 1708; and a register of discipline, commencing February 1768.

Land-owners.—These, with their respective valuations, are as follows: The Earl of Cawdor, L.1108, 17s. 1d.; William McIntosh, Esq. of Geddes, L.810; Hugh Rose, Esq. of Kilravock, L.518; William Robertson, Esq. of Househill, L.200; James A. Grant, Esq. of Viewfield, L.133; Henry Robertson, Esq. of Newton, L.130.

Mansion-Houses.—These are, Geddes House, the grounds about it much ornamented by planting and shrubberies; Viewfield, Newton, Firhall, Auchrhea, Milbank, Ivybank, Househill.

* Concerning the family of Kilravock, it would be needless, on this occasion, to say any thing particular. The figure they have made in the world, in various departments in life, their taste for the fine arts, for literature, for politeness, hospitality, &c. is too well known to require the pen of a panegyrist. Geddes probably derives its name from Geolda, a Pictish saint, to whose memory, on this spot, it seems a place of worship was dedicated.

The charter of foundation of the Chapel of Easter Geddes, part of the walls of which is still extant, and granted by Hugh Rose of Kilravock, bears date 1473. This chapel was dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and endowed with L.5 Scots of stipend, together with a small croft, as a glebe, and on which to erect a manse. The priest or chaplain was to perform daily offices, not only for the soul of the founder, but also for the souls of his predecessors, and of his heirs and successors for ever. The bull of privileges for said chapel is dated at Rome, 26th April 1475, in the fourth year of Pope Sixtus the Fourth.

The site of the constabulary is still visible in the town of Nairn. The Laids of Calder were, for a series of time, high constables, and heritable sheriffs of the county. Notice is taken of the Kebback-stone, in the Statistical Account of the parish of Ardersier. In the north-east corner of this parish, is a place called the King's Steps. Even tradition does not say on what account this royal appellation was affixed to this spot of ground. There is an excellent quarry of freestone, below flood-mark, easily wrought, and of no contemptible quality. There are some chalybeate springs of water, but not of such consequence as to deserve a particular description.

III.—POPULATION.

| | |
|--------------------------|------|
| Amount in 1801, | 2215 |
| 1811, | 2504 |
| 1821, | 3228 |
| 1831, | 3266 |
| 1841, | 3392 |
| Population of the burgh, | 2318 |
| country, | 1074 |

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.—

| | |
|--|------|
| Number of acres, standard imperial measure, in the parish, which are either cultivated or occasionally in tillage, | 3222 |
| Number of acres which never have been cultivated, and which remain constantly waste, or in pasture, | 1390 |
| Number of acres that might, with a profitable application of capital, be added to the cultivated land of the parish, whether that land were afterwards to be kept in occasional tillage or in permanent pasture, | 500 |
| Number of acres under wood, whether natural or planted, | 1380 |

Rent of Land.—The average rent of land per acre is about L.1, 5s.; but near the town, as high as L.2, 10s. or L.3. The real rental of the parish, for the landward part is L.4125, 2s. 2d.; for burgh, L.2511, 8s. 4d.; in all, L.6636, 10s. 6d.

The agricultural improvements keep pace with those common in the north of Scotland. Mr Mackintosh of Geddes is the greatest improver of land, having all his property in the best state of cultivation, and raising grain of superior quality.

The chief improvements in the parish, for many years past, have been made by William Mackintosh, Esq. of Geddes. When he succeeded to that property, in November 1822, he found the arable fields in the late proprietor's own possession, in the best state of cultivation; but those in the possession of tenants, in the worst and most unproductive state possible. The home-farm, however, consisted only of about 60 acres; and the rest of the property was let to five small tenants, in farms from 40 to 100 imperial acres to each, exclusive of pasture. To the south, and immediately in front of the mansion house, is a large hill, called the hill of Urchuny, which at that time was a common between the neighbouring proprietors on both sides of it, but totally unproductive, and at the same time a very ugly feature in the country. As soon as the present proprietor got possession, it immediately became an object with him to improve the property in all its parts; and he accordingly applied to the neighbouring proprietors to have the hill divided, and fortunately succeeded. This being done, he commenced planting his proportion with larch, oak, and some Scotch fir trees; the other proprietors immediately following his example; so that the hill, which was formerly an eye-sore, is now an ornament in this part of the country. The proprietor of Geddes has also planted about

50 imperial acres with different kinds of hard-wood, which are now most thriving. He also took all the farms which were in the hands of tenants into his own; built substantial farm-steadings upon them; drained, limed, and enclosed them; so that they are now equal to any fields in the country, either in appearance or productiveness; and he has added about thirty acres to the arable, making in all 390 acres, exclusive of pasture and beltings.

The mansion-house and approaches to it have been much improved and enlarged. An excellent garden has been laid out, with an extensive range of glass. About seven years ago, the proprietor of Geddes purchased a farm called Torrich, immediately adjoining his own property. It was at the time in the worst order, but, by taking it into his own hands, he has so improved it by draining and blasting of stones, that, from 102 imperial acres, he has increased them to 155, of the best land, and let them to enterprising tenants, in two farms, one of 115 acres, and the other of 40. On the largest farm, there are erected a substantial steading of offices, and a capital mansion house.

The last improvement to be noticed on the estate of Mr Mackintosh, is the erection of a range of neat cottages for labourers at Burnside of Torrich. One of the houses is occupied as a school and dwelling for the teacher, who is appointed by, and receives a salary from, the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge. There is generally in an attendance of from 50 to 60 scholars. A Sabbath school is regularly attended by the children, and their parents, who appear to prize highly the benefits derived from this institution through the bounty of Mr Mackintosh.

Fishings.—Haddock and cod-fishing is carried on to a great extent, by about 200 fishermen and boys; and in the season, they all remove to the Caithness coast, to the herring-fishing, which is their principal source of wealth. There is also a small salmon-fishing at the mouth of the river, and along the shore, which rents at L.60 or L.70.

Navigation.—Seven vessels belong to Nairn, the only port. The burden of the seven may amount to 370 tons register. There is a good deal of trade carried on with the place, through other vessels, in importing coal, lime, and bone-dust, and exporting wood, the principal export, and sometimes corn.

A small pier was erected some years ago at the mouth of the river Nairn, which has since been much injured by floods in the river, and an accumulation of sand driven in by the sea, so as to be of little use except for fishing-boats and small vessels.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Burgh.—The burgh of Nairn has not much increased in size or population, during the last twenty years. The only increase is in the fishing town, occasioned by the prosperity attending the herring-fishing; when the whole of the male fishing population, numbering perhaps 150, besides boys, go with their boats in the herring season, to the Caithness coast, where they remain for six weeks, and on an average bring home from L. 50 to L. 100 each man, which constitutes a great source of wealth to the town. An academy was erected by public subscription some years ago in the burgh, and forms a very neat building at the west end of the town, the ground being the gift of the late Captain James Rose, R. N., who, besides several large donations during his life, has bequeathed his dwelling-house and a considerable sum of money to the Institution.

Two other schools, one called the sessional school, (to which the General Assembly's Committee have appointed a teacher), and the other the monitory school, have been built by public subscription. A dwelling-house is attached to the former.

There are branches of three different banks in the burgh, viz. the National, British Linen Company, and Caledonian. The first named have erected a handsome building for their institution.

Gas has been of late introduced into the burgh, and promises to become a great benefit to the inhabitants, both in their private dwellings, and shops, and in lighting the streets. The public street, from having been a rough causeway, is now Macadamized, and much levelled; but some inconvenience is felt, in very dry weather, from the increased quantity of dust.

There is an excellent well kept hotel in the burgh, at which three public coaches stop every day.

There is a Temperance Society in the burgh, which promises to be productive of good.

Ecclesiastical State.—Number of families in the parish belonging to the Established Church, 730. Number of Dissenting or Seceding families about 100; 1 Episcopalian family; and 1 Roman Catholic. Stipend 122 cwt. 6 stone, 12½ lb. meal, 55 quarters, 6 bushels, 1 gallon, 1 quart barley, paid by the *fiar* prices, and L.129, 9s. 3½d. money. The glebe is nearly seven acres in extent, and rents at L.18 per annum. It is not known when the manse was built; but in 1817, it was completely repaired, and is now in good condition.

Education.—The total number of schools in the parish is, five for boys, and two for girls. The parochial schoolmaster's salary amounted to about L.40 per annum. But the parochial schoolmaster having died about six months ago, the heritors and Presbytery consented to a junction of the parish school, with an academy established in the town, by way of trial; and at present, they form one institution under two teachers. The salary for both is L.65 per annum; and the school fees amount to about L.30.

Savings Banks.—There are two of these in the parish. The amount invested therein last year was L.1436, 14s.; withdrawn, L.385, 1s. 8d.

Poor.—The number of poor is from 120 to 130. Amount of contributions for their relief from L.60 to L.70 per annum; of which, from church collections, L.50; and from alms or legacies from L.10 to L.20.

February 1842.

PARISH OF AULDEARN.

PRESBYTERY OF NAIRN, SYNOD OF MORAY.

THE REV. WILLIAM BARCLAY, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name, &c.—THE parish of Auldearn seems to have derived its name from a brook which runs through it, and which is called in Gaelic *Alt-ern*,—*alt* signifying *a brook*, and *ern*, *alder*, a species of tree growing upon its banks. It is situated on the shore of the Moray Frith, about twenty miles west from Elgin, and as many east from Inverness.

Extent and Boundaries.—The parish is bounded on the north by the Moray Frith; on the east by the parish of Dyke; on the south by the parish of Ardelach; and on the west by the parish of Nairn. Its length from north to south is about 7 miles, and its breadth from east to west about 5. To the distance of three miles from the shore of the Frith, the ground, though of varied elevation, is low. It then rises to a considerable height, and, at the distance of five miles from the sea, is intersected by a valley,

through which flows a stream called the Muckle Burn. Beyond this valley it rises to an elevation greatly exceeding the former; but, at its greatest height, corn may be cultivated and brought to maturity.

Topographical Appearances.—For about half a mile from the shore of the Frith to the westward, and about one mile to the eastward, the soil consists of nothing but sand covered with bent (*Ammophila arundinacea*). Here there are two objects worthy of notice. The one is an island or peninsula of sand, separated from the land at high water, and called by the people in its vicinity “the bar.” It is remarkable for shifting its place to the westward. Opposite to it are two sand-hills, about 100 feet in perpendicular height, and gradually moving to the eastward by the action of the wind, yet retaining their form. The bar is moved in the contrary direction by the action of the tide. It is difficult to form any theory regarding either the formation or locomotion of these objects; but the facts, as stated, are certain. The rest of the parish, though generally level, is varied by gentle eminences. A great part of it is beautified by plantations, and the aspect which it presents when seen from some of the higher grounds, especially in the season of spring, when the spectator has immediately under his eye the tender green of the fields and woods, the herds feeding in the pastures, the Frith, which here is seven miles broad, the bold rocky coast of Ross, its mountains, and those of Sutherland, then often covered with snow, is altogether such as cannot be surpassed by any parish in the north of Scotland.

Climate.—Along the whole coast of Moray, from the mouth of the Spey to that of the Ness, the climate is remarkably dry. It has been ascertained that the district enjoys forty days in the year of dry weather more than any other part of Scotland, and there is no parish where this is more remarkable than in Auldearn. Every year the farmer suffers more or less from want of rain. Little snow falls in winter. The temperature is in general mild and conducive to health.

Hydrography.—The Moray Frith, where it bounds this parish, is so shallow, that no vessel can approach the shore, and even a small boat could not conveniently land. There was, at one time, a fishing village opposite the sand-hills already mentioned, from which they retain the name of Mavistown; but it has been long abandoned. A brook, called the Burn of Auldearn, passes through the lower part of it, and enters the river Nairn about half a mile

from its mouth. On this brook, and within the parish, are four corn-mills. The Muckle Burn, already alluded to, on which there is one corn-mill within the parish, passes through its upper part, and enters the river Findhorn not far from the sea. There are a few small lakes in the parish, one of which, Lochlee, is rather *below the level of the sea*. The parish is in most places well supplied with water.

Geology and Mineralogy.—None of the rocks in this parish are primitive. They are all of sandstone, some of them admirably adapted for building, of which the beautiful suspension-bridge over the Findhorn, near Forres, affords an excellent specimen. Its towers are built of stones taken from a quarry in this parish, on the estate of Mr Brodie of Brodie. Near the house of Boath, and on the property of Sir Frederick William Dunbar, Bart. there is a rock of black stone, which, on the application of fire, emits a flame. From this some have imagined that coals might be found in the parish. But it has been ascertained, that this description of rock, though frequently found below coal, is never found above it. At Clune, on the property of James C. Brodie, Esq. there has been found a number of limestone nodules, containing such a variety of fossil fishes as has of late much attracted the curiosity of geologists and others. Dr Malcolmson was the first who discovered the contents of the limestones, as those who were engaged in carrying on the lime-work had never thought of splitting them in such a way as to exhibit the fossils they contained. On the Brodie property there is a moss of considerable extent, called the Moss of Inshoch, in which vast quantities of fir roots, and often whole trees, are found imbedded. In the moss of Litie, on the property of the Earl of Cawdor, there is an extensive bed of pure marl, from the use of which the agriculturist has in many parts of the parish experienced the greatest benefit. Marl is also found in other parts of the parish.

Botany.—The botany of this parish appears not to have undergone much investigation. Of late, however, a few discoveries have been made, which render it highly probable, that, notwithstanding a want of variety in the soil, the parish is every way worthy of farther research. Of the plants lately discovered, some are additions to the Nairnshire flora, some to the more extensive flora of the province of Moray, and one, *Potamogeton praelongus*, discovered in 1832 by the Rev. Mr Brichan, to the flora of Britain. The following list comprehends such plants as are of greatest in-

terest to the botanist, none being enumerated that are not decidedly indigenous to the parish :

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <i>Carex incurva</i>
vesicaria | <i>Juncus balticus</i>
maritimus | <i>Pyrola media</i>
minor |
| <i>Centunculus minimus</i> | <i>Lobelia Dortmanna</i> | secunda |
| <i>Cnicus heterophyllus</i> | <i>Lycopodium inundatum</i> | <i>Ranunculus auricomus</i> |
| <i>Gagea lutea</i> | <i>Nymphaea alba</i> | <i>Trientalis europaea</i> |
| <i>Goodyera repens</i> | <i>Potamogeton praelongus</i> | <i>Utricularia minor</i> |
| <i>Hippuris vulgaris</i> | heterophyllus | vulgaris. |

The Scotch fir, the larch, and every species of hard-wood known in Scotland, are successfully cultivated, and, in many instances, attain a considerable size. At Boath, and at Lethen, there are some fine specimens of beech, elm, and ash. To the east of Inshoch, on the property of Brodie, there is a plantation of birch, which seems to be the only one of natural wood in the parish. Some parts, once covered with wood, are now uncultivated moorland.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

The parish of Auldearn was, at one time, of much greater extent and importance than now. It was the ancient seat of the Deans of Moray. In 1650 some parts of it were annexed to Nairn, some to Cawdor, and some to Ardelach.

The only place in the parish that derives its name from an historical event is a farm called Knock-na-gillan, or, the Young Men's Hillock. Here the Cummings of Rait put to death twelve out of thirteen young men of the clan Mackintosh, whom they had apprehended while passing through the parish. This was the means of increasing a feud which subsisted between these two clans, and which ended in the extirpation of the Cummings. Some time after the event just mentioned, they met at the Castle of Rait, on the occasion of a marriage. Each of the Cummings came prepared to kill one of the Mackintoshes; but the latter, having been forewarned of the intention of the Cummings, fell on them the instant they arrived; and having put them all to death, burnt their Castle of Rait. The ruins, though not within this parish, may be seen from it, standing as a melancholy monument of the barbarism of ancient times.

Battle of Auldearn.—The ground to the south and west of the village was the scene of one of the victories of the celebrated Marquis of Montrose. Having defeated the Campbells at Inverlochy, he marched into Moray, whence a detachment of the covenanting army, commanded by Hurry, not being in condition to oppose him, retired to Inverness. They were immediately re-enforced by the Frasers, Mackenzies, Rosses, Sutherlands, and Brodies,

and their number thus amounted to about 3500 foot, and 400 horse. Montrose, having also received re-inforcements, from which his army amounted to about the same number, proceeded to Auldearn, and waited the approach of the Covenanters. These, advancing from Inverness, engaged the royalist army on the 9th of May 1645. The latter seem to have occupied very nearly the line of the present road between Newmill and Auldearn; their right wing being posted on the site of the modern village, and their left resting on the Bog of Newmill. Previously to the engagement, Montrose ascended the steeple of the church which stood on the rising ground above the village, the view from which position commanded the approach of the enemy and the whole field of battle. Here he seems to have remained a spectator of the fight, till circumstances about to be mentioned called him to the aid of his men. The attack commenced on the part of the Covenanters, and was directed against the left wing of the royalists, commanded by a Highlander named Macdonald, and entrusted by Montrose with the charge of the royal standard. The troops under Macdonald, though well defended by brushwood and enclosures, soon gave way before the veterans of the Covenant. When Montrose observed this, he descended from the steeple, and advanced with Lord Gordon to attack the left wing of the Covenanters. These, after a very obstinate resistance, he put to flight; and, advancing to the aid of Macdonald, succeeded at length in defeating the whole of the enemy's force. His success on this occasion was considerably aided by an unskilful movement on the part of Major Drummond, who commanded Hurry's horse. This officer, anxious to support the infantry when hard pressed by Montrose and Lord Gordon, wheeled about so suddenly, that he encumbered the ranks of the foot, and threw them into partial disorder, which led to their ultimate defeat. For this he is said to have been tried at Inverness, and condemned to be shot. Various accounts are given of the number of slain on both sides. The most correct seems to be that of Shaw, who says that 800 of the Covenanters, and a considerable number of the Royalists, fell in this battle. Among the killed on Montrose's side was Macpherson of Invereshie. And if tradition may be credited, the life of Macdonald, though he was brave to desperation, was saved as much by his cunning as by his bravery. He was engaged hand to hand with Hay of Kinnudie, a tall and powerful man; and, perceiving himself about to be overpowered, called out to Hay, "Ill not deceive you; my men are coming behind you." Having

by this means induced Hay to turn round, he saved his own life by stabbing his adversary at a disadvantage. Besides Hay of Kinnudie, there fell on the part of the Covenanters, Campbell of Lawers, Captain Bernard Mackenzie, Sir John Murray, Mr Gideon Murray, and Alexander Drummond of Meedhope.*

In a field to the south-west of the village, there is a small clump of trees enclosed with a dike. Here many of those slain in the battle of Auldearn are buried.†

Eminent Persons.—John Innes, Esq. of Broad Street Buildings, London, who was a partner in the house of Fairley, Bonham, and Co., which had at one time the most extensive mercantile transactions with India of any house in London, was born in the village of Auldearn. He was for many years a Member of the Commons' House of Parliament. To the extensive influence of Mr Innes, and the unwearied benevolence with which he exercised it, especially in behalf of his countrymen, the rise of many a private fortune may be traced. There has just been erected to his memory, on a small eminence on the east of the village, a handsome building, intended for an infant school. ‡

The building is surrounded by a stone wall, inclosing nearly a quarter of an acre of ground, imperial measure. The ground, with the road by which it is approached, was handsomely given for the purpose by Sir Frederick William Dunbar, of Boath, Bart.

Land-owners.—The heritors of the parish, and their respective valued rentals, are as follow :

| | | | | |
|--|--------------------|----|----|--------|
| John Gordon, Esq. of Cluny, | L. 2418 | 19 | 4½ | Scots. |
| William Brodie, Esq. of Brodie, | 1599 | 10 | 1 | |
| The Right Honourable the Earl of Cawdor, | 1483 | 19 | 6 | |
| James Campbell Brodie, Esq. of Lethen, | 1101 | 0 | 0 | |
| Sir Frederick W. Dunbar, Bart. of Boath, | 652 | 15 | 9 | |
| | <hr/> L. 7256 4 8½ | | | |

* The death of the last three is commemorated by two tombstones; the one in the church-yard, the other with a tablet within the choir of the old church, the only part of that building which now remains. The inscriptions are as follow, and fix the date of the battle, which is erroneously said to have been fought on the 4th of May.

“ Heir lyeth Capitane Bernard Mackensie who in defence of his religion and covntrie feighting diet at Alderne the 9th of May 1645.

“ This monvment is erected be Sir Robert Innes younger of that ilk in memorie of Alexander Drymond of Meedhope Sir Johne Mvrray and Maister Gideon Mvrray who lyes here intered who, fighting walliantly in defence of their religione king and native covntray died at Avldearn the 9th May 1645.”

† Some time ago, on trenching the ground, their bones were exposed; and when it was suggested to the late Mr Gordon of Braid, the proprietor, to dig a pit, that they might be buried at a greater depth, that gentleman said, “ They are low enough already, poor fellows, and we'll not put them farther down. We'll plant it.” This was accordingly done, and the place is since familiarly known by the name of the Dead Wood.

‡ On this is the following inscription :—“ To perpetuate the memory of a man of worth, and for the education of infants in his native parish, this building was erected by the friends of John Innes, Esquire, of Broad Street Buildings, London, who

Parochial Registers.—From the negligence of the session-clerks at some former periods, or from other causes, some of the parochial registers are lost, others are almost illegible, and the date at which they commence is therefore not easily ascertained.

Antiquities.—On the higher ground in the parish, and on the Cawdor estate, are the remains of two Druidical temples—one at Golford, the other near the site of the old castle of Moyness. The latter consists of two concentric circles of large stones. It has an appendage not generally found attached to Druidical circles, and named a rocking-stone. It is large, and might weigh about four tons. It rocks slightly, only when passed over in a particular direction. The rocking-stone is supposed to have been used as an ordeal for the conviction of criminals.

On a small eminence, called “the black hillock,” and lying between the two Druidical stations above-mentioned, there was dug up about twelve years ago a coffin composed of large flag-stones, and containing a large and perfect skeleton. Near it were found also five or six ancient urns, filled with ashes and pieces of burned bone.

The ruins of the castle of Moyness are now but a heap of stones.

About a mile north of the church, on the property of William Brodie, Esq. of Brodie, lies the old castle of Inshoch, the family residence of the Hays of Lochloy, who once possessed a considerable proportion of the land in this parish. Within the ruins of Elgin cathedral there is a stone sarcophagus with a recumbent knight in full armour on the lid; and the inscription tells us that the mortal remains within are those of William de le Hay of Lochloy, who died 1421.—Rhind’s Sketches of the past and present state of Moray.

The inscription is as follows:

Hic jacet Wills de le Hay quōdā dns de Lochloy qui obiit
viii die mēsis decēbris anno dōm mccccxxi.

The property of Lochloy, now called Lochlee, adjoins that of Inshoch, and gave the title to the family who possessed both.

A mile eastward of the church stood till lately the old house of Penick, the residence of the deans of Moray. Immediately west of the church, there is a small round hill, evidently artificial, formerly called the Castlehill. It is on the property of Boath, but not even a tradition remains as to its original proprietor, or the purpose for which it was reared.

was born at Auldearn, the 25th December 1767, and died in London, the 24th November 1838.”

Modern Buildings.—Of these the mansion-houses of Lethen and Boath alone are worthy of particular notice. The former, the residence of James C. Brodie, Esq. is the older of the two, having been built last century. It consists of a large main building of three stories, with two wings of less height and of unequal dimensions. It is situated in the southern part of the parish, on the higher ground of the valley of the Muckleburn. Seen from the opposite side of the valley, with large old beeches immediately surrounding it, and the beautifully wooded banks of the stream sloping below, it contributes to form one of the finest landscapes in the county.

The mansion-house of Boath, the seat of Sir Frederick William Dunbar, is an elegant building of three stories, erected about 1830, of freestone taken from a quarry on the property, but not within the parish of Auldearn. It stands in the valley of the burn of Auldearn, at the meeting of the two principal branches of that stream, and a little to the north of the church and manse. The garden, lawn, and shrubberies are not extensive, but are well and tastefully laid out. The freestone, of a beautiful whiteness, has retained its colour almost uninjured by the elements.

III.—POPULATION.

In 1755, the population is said to have amounted to 1951. The following are its various amounts during several of the years since that period :

| Year. | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|----------|--------|----------|--------|
| 1796, . | 661 . | 745 . | 1406 |
| 1801, . | . . | . . | 1402 |
| 1821, . | 723 . | 800 . | 1523 |
| 1831, . | 752 . | 861 . | 1613 |
| 1841, .. | 704 . | 753 . | 1457 |

Of the population, there are 360 resident in the village, and 1097 in the rest of the parish. A considerable decrease in the latter, from the enlargement of farms, is partly compensated by a corresponding increase in the former. In 1797, the village contained 41 houses, and 185 inhabitants. It now contains 86 houses, and, as stated above, 360 inhabitants.

From a register kept by the parochial schoolmaster, the number of births, deaths, and marriages, for the last seven years, would appear to be as follows :

| Year. | Births. | Deaths. | Marriages. |
|---------|---------|---------|------------|
| 1835, . | 27 . | 32 . | 14 |
| 1836, . | 35 . | 28 . | 12 |
| 1837, . | 26 . | 42 . | 14 |
| 1838, . | 43 . | 45 . | 11 |
| 1839, . | 23 . | 28 . | 9 |

| Year. | Births. | Deaths. | Marriages. | |
|---|---------|---------|------------|-----|
| 1840, | 21 | 30 | 8 | |
| 1841, | 22 | 34 | 9 | |
| Total, | 197 | 239 | 77 | |
| Average, | 28 | 34 | 11 | |
| The number of families in the parish in 1831, | | | | 379 |
| chiefly employed in agriculture, | | | | 190 |
| trade, manufactures, or handicraft, | | | | 101 |

But the number of marriages in the above account can alone be regarded as accurately ascertained. Many of the births in the parish are not registered, especially of those who belong to the Secession. So that there are probably about six births annually more than appear by the above statement. The register of deaths is still farther from the truth, being a record only of those who are buried in the parish. Many people, especially in the parish of Nairn, have their burying-grounds in Auldearn; while, on the other hand, many who die in this parish are buried in others.

There is no proprietor, or family of independent fortune at present residing in the parish, except James C. Brodie, Esq. of Lethen, and family.

The number of families is 371; the number of persons in each, on an average, 4; the number of inhabited houses, 371; of uninhabited or building, 9. The parish contains 4 insane persons.

A considerable proportion of the people are decidedly religious, and their influence and example have a most beneficial effect on the sentiments and manners of those who are themselves ignorant of the power of vital godliness.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.—

| | |
|---|------|
| Number of acres, standard imperial measure, either cultivated or occasionally in tillage, about | 4778 |
| Number of acres never cultivated, and which remain constantly waste or in pasture, | 5111 |
| Number of acres which might, with a profitable application of capital, be added to the cultivated land of the parish, about | 2000 |
| Number of acres under water, | 198 |
| Commons all divided. | |
| Number of acres under wood, about | 3603 |

No natural wood in the parish, except a small plantation of birch, already mentioned. The forest trees planted are chiefly Scotch fir, larch, oak, beech, elm, and ash.

The average rent of arable land per imperial acre, L. 1, 3s.

Average rent of grazing for a full-grown ox or cow, about L. 2, for a full-grown ewe, 10s.

The prices of different articles of raw produce, or country manu-

facture are as follows: wheat, per quarter, L.2, 10s.; barley, per quarter, L. 1, 10s.; oats, per quarter, L.1; potatoes, per bushel, 1s.; turnips, per acre, L.5, 10s.; hay, per cwt., 3s. 4d.; butter, per lb., 8d.; cheese, per lb., 4d.; beef and mutton, per lb. 4d.; fowls, each 1s.; eggs, per dozen, 3d. in summer, 6d. in winter. Mason-work 2s. 6d. per day; carpenter do., 2s.

The cattle are of various kinds, chiefly Highland. The sheep, as before-mentioned, are generally of the white-faced breed. The system of husbandry in the parish has of late been greatly improved. The general rotation of cropping is the six course shift, to which the tenants on all the estates except Kinstearly are bound. The order is as follows: 1st year, grass; 2d, grass; 3d, wheat or oats; 4th, oats; 5th, turnips and potatoes; 6th, barley or wheat. The five course shift is thus arranged: 1st year, grass; 2d, grass; 3d, wheat or oats; 4th, turnips and potatoes; 5th, barley or wheat. Some of the farms on Colonel Gordon's lands are enclosed with good stone dikes. Much waste land in all parts of the parish has been reclaimed within the last thirty years. Great improvements have been made by draining, and by the use of lime and marl, bone dust, and other manure.

The general duration of leases is nineteen years.

The state of farm-buildings has of late been much improved, but few enclosures have been made except on the property of Colonel Gordon of Cluny.

The principal improvements recently introduced are better roads, better farm-buildings, and the greater productiveness of the fields by thorough cleaning, and good manuring.

The principal obstacles to improvement are the want of capital on the part of the tenants, the want of a good harbour at Nairn, and the want of due encouragement from the proprietors.

Produce.—The average gross amount of raw produce yearly raised in the parish, as nearly as can be ascertained, is as follows:

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|---|----------|---|---|
| Grain of all kinds, | . | L.8440 | 0 | 0 |
| Potatoes and turnips, | . | 2110 | 0 | 0 |
| Hay, | . | 300 | 0 | 0 |
| Pasture, | . | 2375 | 0 | 0 |
| Wood, | . | 540 | 0 | 0 |
| Total, | . | L.13,765 | 0 | 0 |

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Market-Town.—There is no market-town in the parish. Nairn, the county town, is the nearest, and lies two and a-half miles to the westward of the church. There is but one village of any

size. It is adjacent to the church, and contains, as stated above, 360 inhabitants.

Means of Communication.—The means of communication enjoyed by the parishioners are various, and have, in the course of the last twenty years, been immensely improved. There is no post-office nearer than Nairn. The turnpike road from Elgin to Inverness, formed in 1820, runs through the parish for about four miles, and along with county roads running in all directions, and all kept in good repair, affords the best possible communication short of railroads or canals. The bridges are well and substantially built. A daily mail, and two daily stage-coaches, run on the turnpike, and carriers, regular and occasional, complete the means of conveyance enjoyed by the inhabitants.

Ecclesiastical State.—The parish church, though not exactly central, is, from its situation, convenient for the great majority of the people. It is close to the village, as already mentioned, and even those at the greatest distance are within five miles of it. A range, therefore, of three miles at an average will include almost the whole of the church-going population. The church was built in 1757, and is still a substantial, though an ill-constructed, building. The length is completely out of proportion to the breadth, and the whole building affords a specimen of the little attention formerly paid in the erection of churches both to the comfort and the acoustic powers of the congregation. It has accommodation for 477 sitters, and no seat-rents are on any pretence exacted. No sittings however are provided for the inhabitants of the village. The manse was built in 1817, and, in respect both of construction and situation, is as desirable a residence as any country manse in the present day.

The extent of the glebe is about six acres, and its annual value L.12. The stipend, by a decree of the Court of Teinds, is fixed at 16 chalders, half meal, half barley, paid out of the teinds, 14 wedders converted at L. 2, 1s. 6d., L. 8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements, and L.10 in lieu of a grass glebe. There are in this parish about L. 200 of unappropriated teinds. The patron and titular of the parish is Mr Brodie of Brodie.

There is no chapel of ease, no Government church, and no missionary in the parish. There are two catechists employed by the kirk-session, with the consent and approval of the congregation. One of these is partly paid by the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge. There is a Dissenting meeting-house at

Boghole connected with the United Associate Secession. The charge is at present vacant. The clergyman is paid partly from the seat-rents, and partly from the collections or other contributions of the congregation. The amount of his stipend is about L.80. The parish contains no Episcopalians, and but one Roman Catholic.

The number of families attending the Established Church is about 260 ; the number of persons of all ages about 950. Divine service is generally well attended. The number of Dissenters, or of those who attend the Dissenting chapel, is 275. About one-third of these are not Dissenters, but attend merely from their proximity to that place of worship. The average number of communicants at the Established Church is 164.

There are no societies for religious objects exclusively parochial ; but there is a branch of the Nairnshire Bible Society, and a branch of the Presbytery of Nairn Missionary Society auxiliary to the schemes of the church. The amount annually contributed by the parish for these and other religious objects is about L.25. The average annual amount of church collections for the parochial poor is also L.25.

Education.—There are two schools in the parish, one parochial, and one unendowed. The parochial schoolmaster has a good house, and a salary of L.36, 7s. 2d., including the allowance for a garden. The branches taught by him are, reading, English grammar, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping, geography, land-surveying, and the other branches of mathematics, Latin, Greek, and French. All these, except the last three, are likewise taught at the unendowed school.

There is scarcely a child in the parish between six and fifteen years of age that cannot read. There may be from twelve to fourteen persons above fifteen who cannot read. All are desirous to have their children educated, and there is no part of the parish so distant from a school that the benefits of education cannot be obtained. A school for the instruction of infants and of girls in those branches which belong to female education, is much wanted. The school-house, already mentioned as in the course of erection, is intended for this purpose ; but there is, as yet, no adequate provision for a teacher.

There is a Sabbath school library, and about 300 religious tracts distributed on loan.

Charitable and other Institutions.—There have been two Friend-

ly Societies established in the parish. Their object is to give aid to members when sick, or unable from age to work, and an allowance to widows. Each also allows L.4 to defray the funeral expenses of a member or member's wife. There was a Savings Bank kept by the minister of the parish for more than twenty years; but, on the opening of a National Security Savings Bank at Nairn, the funds were in 1841 transferred to it, as a more convenient locality for the depositors. The amount of the funds transferred was about L.800.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The average number of poor on the roll is 44. There are about six more who require occasional relief. The annual average allowance to each on the roll is 10s. The collections for their relief during the year, average as follow: Church collections, after deducting payment of session-clerk, precentor, and kirk-officer, L. 13, 1s.; received for the use of the mortcloth, L. 3, 10s.; contributed by the heritors, L. 6; total collected exclusively for the poor, L. 22, 11s. The insane poor are entirely provided for by the heritors. There is no other regular mode of supporting the poor, but donations are sometimes given for their use by benevolent individuals connected with the parish. They are very unwilling to apply for parochial relief, and their relations often provide for them in order to save them from the necessity of such application. All admitted on the roll make over to the session for the behoof of their survivors what property they may leave at death, deducting funeral expenses. Little is gained in this way, as none but those without property come upon the roll.

There are no prisons in the parish. There are four fairs—St Colm's market, held the first Wednesday after 19th June; St John's, first Tuesday after the Inverness Martinmas market; and two fairs, held respectively a fortnight and a month after St John's.

There are four public-houses, three of which are in the village. Their effects on the morals of the people are decidedly injurious.

Fuel.—Three descriptions of fuel are used,—wood, peat, and coal. Almost all the parishioners have access to the mosses where peat is obtained. English coals are brought from Nairn.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

In comparing the present state of the parish with its state at the time of the former Statistical Account, several striking differences occur. During more than forty years that have elapsed since that period, agriculture, from being hampered by ancient prejudice and

ancient skill, has attained a degree of improvement equal to what is exhibited by the most improved parts of the country. New roads have been made, the old so thoroughly altered for the better, and the means of communication thus so much increased, that the whole parish has of late risen greatly in improvement and value. The rental is nearly doubled. Perhaps the most obvious improvement that could be introduced is some species of manufacture to give employment to the poor. But, though the parish affords abundant facilities for this, its distance from the nearest available harbour may be mentioned as the greatest hindrance to any such speculation. It is questionable, however, whether the introduction of manufactures would improve the morals of the people, whose religious character is very observable. The population of the parish, according to the statement given above, has since 1797 been of varied amount. That of the village has considerably increased. The diminution of the number of public-houses in the village, and the allocation of seats in the parish church to its inhabitants, would add materially to their comfort, and under the Divine blessing would prove the means of their social and religious improvement.

March 1842.

PARISH OF CAWDOR.

PRESBYTERY OF NAIRN, SYNOD OF MORAY.

THE REV. SIMON F. McLAUCHLAN, MINISTER.

L.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—THE first name, at least the first recorded name, of this parish appears to have been “Barewen” or “Barivan;” *Ewan* being the saint to whose tutelar protection it was entrusted, and *Bar*, probably a corruption of Brae, as the old church, the walls of which are still extant, is situated in the upper and hilly part of the parish. For several hundred years, however, the parish, as such, has been known by the name of Calder or Cawdor. The former is the mode of pronouncing the word, common among the Gaelic part of the population now, and apparently from a remote

period ; but it was known as Cawdor both to Hector Boece, the historian, and Shakspeare, and so was adopted as the family title, when, in 1796, the present Noble family of Cawdor was elevated to the Peerage, since which time this has become the general and recognized mode of spelling the name of the parish. In the ancient Atlas of Blaeu, the name is given “ Cathel,”—a form still used by many of the country people, who do not speak Gaelic, in the eastern parts of the parish and county.

Extent, &c.—Though the parish of Croy claims some detached parts on the south of the Nairn, this river may be considered the northern boundary of the parish of Cawdor. The length of the parish from west to east, along this river, is between 3 and 4 miles. Its breadth is very irregular, in some places not above a mile, in others 4 and 5 miles, while one offset stretches southward across the Findhorn river to a distance of more than 16 miles. The parish may be described as a cultivated plain of about a mile in breadth, and parallel with the Nairn, rising towards the south into ranges of hills of considerable elevation, which, for some distance up their sloping sides, are brought under tillage, above which, again, rise large plantations of wood, while these in their turn are succeeded by very wide tracts of brown and barren heath.

Climate.—The climate is dry, mild, and agreeable, being, in some measure, sheltered by distance, and the intervening parishes of Nairn and Auldearn, from the piercing winds which blow off the German Ocean.

In winter, snow seldom lies to any great depth, which may be owing partly to the little elevation of the land above the sea, (not above 80 or 100 feet), in part also to its being walled in with hills to the south and west. Indeed, during the last two winters, there have been striking instances of snow falling to the depth of several feet to the east and west, while, at the same time, in this parish, the depth was not above a few inches. Perhaps the greatest degree of cold that has been experienced in this part of the island for many seasons, was felt on the 7th and 8th days of January of 1841, when the mercury in Fahrenheit’s thermometer was seen to sink within doors to about 5° below zero. As the soil is generally of a light description, the crops often suffer in summer from excessive drought.

Hydrography.—The only river in the parish, if we except the Findhorn, which cuts through a narrow and remote neck of land to the south, is the small but often impetuous and destructive river,

already referred to, called the Nairn, which falls into the sea about two miles below the point at which it leaves the parish. In passing through, it receives a tributary in the Burn of Cawdor, justly celebrated for the great beauty and romantic scenery of its wooded banks, and on whose brink stands the old castle of the same name.

The soil of the flat is generally an alluvial loam, seldom of a very rich nature, lying upon rolled debris of sand and gravel. The lower and nearer hills are composed of old red sandstone, with its associated coarse conglomerate. In the higher hills, however, towards the south and west, we find only gray gneiss, in many places, much shattered and contorted by granite veins. The junction of the old red sandstone with the gneiss is beautifully displayed in the bed of the Burn of Cawdor, about half a mile above Achneem.

Botany.—There is nothing peculiar in the Flora of this parish, if we except a very interesting addition, not only to it, but to the Flora of Scotland, which was lately (24th August 1841) discovered in the wood of Cawdor, viz. *Monotropa Hypopitys*,—a plant rare in England, and, it is believed, never before found in Scotland. Among the other varieties of the Flora of the parish may be particularized :—

| | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <i>Festuca calamaria</i> | <i>Listera ovata</i> | <i>Lycopus Europæus</i> |
| <i>Milium effusum</i> | <i>Goodyera repens</i> | <i>Rhinanthus major</i> |
| <i>Convallaria majalis</i> | <i>Asplenium viride</i> | <i>Hesperis matronalis</i> |
| <i>Pyrola secunda</i> | <i>Scolopendrium vulgare</i> | <i>Juncus balticus</i> , &c. |
| <i>Stellaria nemorum</i> | <i>Lycopodium inundatum</i> | |

The soil and climate seem both peculiarly favourable to the growth of wood, the chief varieties of which make rapid progress, and, in many cases, attain a great size.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

The parish is in the hands of two proprietors ; the Right Honourable the Earl of Cawdor, and Sir John Rose of Holme. Neither is resident. The seat in Scotland of the family of Cawdor, long an influential one in this part of the country, is the old castle already alluded to, and which is one of the finest specimens, and in best preservation, of those ancient fortalices of the feudal barons, which still continue to frown over many of our plains. The license to build it bears date 1393 ; but it appears not to have been completed for about half a century afterwards ; and several large additions were made in succeeding times. It is in a state of good repair, and is occupied by the family of the Noble owner, during their occasional visits to their northern estates. A tradition exists, that King Duncan of Scotland was murdered here by Mac-

beth. The room is shown in which the bloody deed was perpetrated; and until a few years ago, when it was accidentally destroyed by fire, a bed stood in this room, known as King Duncan's bed. It is not improbable that the latter part of the tradition may be correct; the fatal bed may in some way, and at some period, have been transferred to this castle; and this, if so, will account for the enlarged edition of the story which has descended to our times; but considerable doubt may well be entertained as to the rest, when it is borne in mind that the worthy King was put to death nearly 400 years before the castle had a being. It is a piece of history more to be relied on, that the well known Lord Lovat of the Rebellion lay hid for some time from his pursuers in a distant and secret apartment of this building. Sir Hugh Campbell of Calder, who lived at the close of the seventeenth century, was a gentleman who took a very active part in ecclesiastical affairs. Although, we believe, a Presbyterian, he contended for the necessity of an injunction being laid upon the clergy to repeat the Lord's Prayer some time during the services of the Sabbath. To accomplish this object, he repeatedly addressed letters to the presbytery of Inverness, to Principal Carstairs of Edinburgh, and to the General Assembly, and finally published a work upon the subject; copies of which are still occasionally to be met with. Mr Shaw, author of a very interesting and valuable work, the History of the Province of Moray, was, previous to his translation to Elgin, for a considerable period, minister of this parish. It would appear, that, in the dark times of Charles II., the demon of persecution reached even this quiet and rural parish. A most interesting manuscript journal, kept by a Mrs Lilius Dunbar or Campbell, a native of, and resident in, the parish, still exists. This lady was a ward and relative of the family of Calder, lived in the castle, and afterwards married one of the cadets of the house, Mr Campbell of Torrich. She joined the Presbyterian party, was in the habit of hearing the ousted ministers, and gives an account of perils encountered in this way; among others, of her being carried away, and nearly drowned in crossing the swollen river of Nairn (there being no bridge), to hear the celebrated Mr Thomas Hogg, who used often to preach in the contiguous parish of Croy, especially at Kilravock. For her offences in this respect, she was seized, thrown into the Jail of Elgin, and was on the eve of being for ever banished her native land, when, opportunely for her, the news arrived of the King's death, and she was

released. The narrative is deeply interesting, both as containing an authentic account of some of the proceedings of those days, and also, and more especially, as indicating a mind not only imbued with the deepest piety, but of superior power, and very considerable accomplishment. The language is more that of the present, than of the seventeenth century; and the sentiment and style not unfrequently rise to great elevation and pathos.

III.—POPULATION.

By the Government census taken this year (1841), the population of the parish is 1150, being a decrease of 37 since the census of 1831. The number of families is 270; of inhabited houses, 259. The average number of births per annum about 30. No register of deaths is kept. There are 5 fatuous persons. The decrease in the population is small, and is confined to the Highland part of the parish.

This parish forms the extreme limit of the Gaelic district in this direction, there being nothing but English spoken beyond its eastern boundary. Both languages, as might be expected from its position, are in very general use, although in their intercourse with each other, and in the services of religion, the peasantry still show a decided preference for the Gaelic. Notwithstanding the close neighbourhood of English, the increased opportunities of instruction, and the rapidly growing intercourse with other parts of the empire, it is a remarkable circumstance, that the two languages seem to occupy relatively to each other nearly the same ground that they did from a remote period; a fact which would seem to put the day far off, with regard to the Highlands in general, when the mountain-tongue shall, to any great extent, give place to the more cultivated, but not more expressive, language of the plain.

The population is altogether rural, and engaged in agriculture; and, the land not being too much subdivided, on the one hand, nor thrown into too large farms, on the other, the people enjoy the comforts and advantages common to their class elsewhere. They are on the whole cleanly in their habits, and their dwellings have been of late years much improved. Their general character is that of a sober, regular, and well-disposed people, among whom no open vices prevail to any extent, and over whom religion exerts a considerable influence.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

As already observed, agriculture is here the chief employment; and it is gratifying to observe the rapid improvement which is tak-

ing place in this branch of industry, making itself apparent in the improved appearance of the country. A regular system of rotation of crop (the six-shift) is enforced; and lime is coming much into use. More attention, too, is paid to improving the breed of cattle. These changes are owing partly to the advancing intelligence of the farmers themselves, partly to the general spirit of improvement abroad, and in no small degree to the exertions of the Nairnshire Farming Society, which holds an annual meeting in the parish, and awards premiums for the best of the various descriptions of stock.

| | |
|---|--------|
| The number of arable acres may be about . | 2,400 |
| Under pasture and moor, . . . | 22,278 |
| Under wood, | 2,200 |

The rent per arable acre ranges from L.1 to L.1, 10s. Farms range in size from L.15 to L.190 of rent. The general duration of leases is nineteen years. A common labourer's wages are, in winter, 1s. 4d., in summer, 2s. per day; those of a tradesman, 2s. to 2s. 6d. Provisions, such as meal, potatoes, &c. are in general cheap. The woods in the parish consist partly of indigenous, partly of planted timber. The indigenous wood is oak, ash, birch, fir, and alder; the planted, beech, lime, larch, sycamore, and elm

V. PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

The parish lying off the great lines of communication with the south and east, there are no public conveyances passing through it, the nearest point of their course being the town of Nairn, which is six miles distant from the parish church. All the roads are district roads, which are kept in a tolerable state of repair.

Ecclesiastical State.—The church, which is quite central, was built in the year 1619, in consequence of a vow, made by the then laird of Calder, when overtaken by a storm at sea, that, should a kind Providence bring him safe to shore, his first business on reaching home would be to erect a church more convenient for the parishioners than the one then in existence. It underwent a very extensive repair in 1830, when it was also considerably enlarged, and is seated for 638 persons. The manse, an excellent and commodious house, was built in 1831. The glebe contains from nine to ten acres of land, mostly arable, and may be worth about L. 10 per annum. A catechist is employed, who is supported by the parish. The people are all warmly attached to the Established Church, and there is but one Dissenting family in the parish, not natives of it. Great

regularity prevails in attendance on public worship, which is conducted in Gaelic and English. The communicants are from 80 to 90 in number. Stipend about L. 170.

There are two religious associations to which the parish in general contributes. The one a Bible, the other a Missionary Society.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The church collections for the poor amount to about L. 25 per annum, besides which there are no other parochial funds. About a similar sum is collected annually for other charitable and religious purposes. The number on the poor's roll is 50.

Clothing Society.—A penny a week clothing Society is supported in the parish by the Countess of Cawdor, upon a plan well deserving extensive imitation. A penny is contributed weekly by each poor person on the list, to which another is added by the benevolent promoter of the scheme. With this sum, which, in the course of a year, amounts to 8s. 8d. for each person, there is purchased at the beginning of winter such articles of clothing as they severally find most requisite. The number on the list here at present is 50, but this might vary according to circumstances. The clothing is purchased for the poor, and in no case is the money entrusted to themselves. By this plan, charity is prudently and usefully dispensed, while, at the same time, habits of thriftiness and forethought are cultivated in the minds of those who are admitted to the benefit. Of course, wherever acted on, some suitable individual must be appointed to take charge of the weekly deposits, procure the clothing, and take the general management of the scheme.

Education.—There are four schools in the parish, all more or less endowed. The parish school enjoys the maximum salary; the fees vary from L. 10 to L. 14 per annum. The children of paupers are taught at reduced rates. Another school has lately been established by the society for Propagating Christian Knowledge. The two others are sewing and reading schools, taught by females; one endowed by the Right Honourable the Countess of Cawdor, and the other by the above-mentioned society. With the exception of a very few old people, there are none but can read, and the majority can write.

Means of Communication.—There is a penny-post in the village of Cawdor, where a considerable daily increase of letters has taken place since the reduction of the postage rates.

Inns.—There is one inn, and two licensed spirit-shops.

Distillery.—The well-known Brackla distillery, which is the only one in Scotland, we believe, privileged to use the Royal arms, and supply the Royal table, has been in operation on an extensive scale in the parish for many years.

Fuel.—Two large peat mosses supply the people with fuel, but coal taken from the sea port of Nairn is chiefly used by the better classes.

December 1841.

Revised March 1842.

PARISH OF ARDCLACH.

PRESBYTERY OF NAIRN, SYNOD OF MORAY.

THE REV. HUGH MACBEAN, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—THE name Ardelach is Gaelic, signifying high stony ground.

Extent.—The extreme length of the parish is 13 miles, and its extreme breadth about 8 miles. It contains in all about 65 square miles.

Boundaries.—It is bounded on the north by the parishes of Nairn and Auldearn; on the east, by Edenkillie; on the south, by Cromdale and Duthil; and on the west, by Cawdor. Its figure is extremely irregular, and its character generally mountainous, and in many parts very romantic.

Climate.—The high and exposed situation of the parish, destitute to a great extent of the shelter of wood, renders the climate cold, and causes the winter to be long-continued. But the district is notwithstanding healthy. The prevalent distempers are said to be rheumatism and erysipelas.

Hydrography.—The parish is throughout its extent abundantly supplied with excellent water. Many of the springs are chalybeate.

There is one fine lake, situated on the property of Lethen, cal-

led the Loch of Belivat, covering an area of 27 acres, and remarkable for having no known or perceptible stream running into or out of it. It has a small island in the centre; and is well supplied with excellent trout, averaging about 2 lbs. in weight, and of three distinct kinds, one of which is peculiarly remarkable for the deep redness of its flesh.

The river Findhorn, which takes its rise in the *Monad-leah* group of mountains in Inverness-shire, and, running in a northeasterly direction, discharges itself into the Moray Firth, at the port of Findhorn, flows for about thirteen miles through the parish of Ardcclach, increased in its progress by a number of mountain-streams, viz. the burns of Torgarrow, Drumlochan, and Tomnarroch from the south, and the burn of Altnarie from the north. On the burn of Torgarrow, near the farm of Lynemore there is a beautiful cascade, and another on the burn of Altnarie, upon the estate of Lethen. The fall of Altnarie is of considerable height, and the beauty and highly romantic character of the deeply wooded and secluded glen in which it is situated, renders it a great attraction to the lover of the picturesque.

The Burn of Lethen, or Muckle Burn, is a considerable stream, which takes its rise in the south-west of this parish, and flows through it for about ten miles, in a direction nearly parallel to the Findhorn, which it ultimately joins, within about two miles of its mouth.

Geology.—The general character of the parish is sub-alpine, and the prevailing rocks belong to the primary series. Of these, some magnificent sections are made on the eastern side of the parish, by the river Findhorn, on whose banks,—particularly at Dulcie, Fairness, Altnarie, and Coulmony,—are spots whose rocky scenery and woodland beauty may bear comparison with the most romantic to be found in Scotland. The rocks along the course of the Findhorn are granite, gneiss, and quartz. On the western limit of the parish, the burn of Lethen has cut for itself a deep channel from west to east, through the lowest division of the old red sandstone formation, and has exposed the schistose sandstone, containing impressions of plants, apparently marine fucoids, but species not determined, resting on the conglomerate; and nodules containing imperfect remains of fishes are also got here. But, at Lethenbar, on the brow of the hill, a short distance south of the bed of the stream, the remarkable fish bed of the lowest division of the old red sandstone crops out at the surface. The ichthyo-

lites, or fossil remains of fishes, are enclosed in nodules, or flat elliptical bodies, of fibro-carbonate of lime, and imbedded in a loamy shale, which overlays a schistose sandstone, having vegetable impressions. The nodules are composed of the purest lime, and, when burned, yield excellent shells for manure or building purposes. They run so much into each other as to present a pretty thick bed of compact limestone, which is found highly useful, and burned to a considerable extent, principally for manure to newly improved land. The fossil contents of these nodules have lately excited much curiosity and attention in the scientific world. The fishes they contain are in a state of perfect preservation,—every scale and fin, in many of them, remaining in their places. They are believed to have been inhabitants of the sea, but the very genera to which they belonged are now totally extinct, viz. *Coccosteus*, *Pterichthys*, *Cheirolepis*, *Cheiracanthus*, *Diplocanthus*, *Osoteolepis*, *Gyrolepis*, besides others which, though discovered, have not been hitherto named. Many geologists are assiduous in their investigations into this subject, and the locality is already distinguished in the annals of geology. The burn of Lethen, in its downward course, cuts through and exposes sections of the newer beds of the old red sandstone, in which fossil remains of fishes,—totally different from those of Lethenbar, Clune, and that neighbourhood,—have been discovered; but these sections are beyond the boundaries of the parish.

The strata of the rocks of the primary series, forming, as has been said, the prevailing rocks of the parish, are generally placed at a high angle, dipping in various directions. Those of the old red sandstone dip to the north-west, at an angle of 14° . The sandstone strata have undergone little disturbance, no trap dikes, or other indications of volcanic agency, occurring in the parish. The sandstone beds are not of great thickness, so far as hitherto exposed.

No mineralogical survey has ever been made of the parish; and no metallic ores to any extent have been discovered, though indications of iron and manganese have been observed. Neither have any simple minerals of value been detected.

The upper or alpine division of the parish, belonging to the primary series of rocks, has but a scanty covering of alluvial matter or vegetable mould for the support of herbage, and yet trees of luxuriant growth find rooting among the crevices of the rocks. But the alluvial deposits at the sides of the rivers and streams,

provincially called haughs, holms, and straths, are very fertile. In the lower or northern division, where the sandstone beds are cut through by the burn of Lethen, the thickness of diluvial matter, sand, and gravel, exceeds 300 feet. Over the whole surface of the table-land of the parish are strewed erratic blocks of granite and gneiss, which are mostly water-worn, and have apparently been transported from considerable distances, as they differ in lithological character from the rocks in the neighbourhood. Peat-mosses also abound in the table-land.

Zoology.—Red-deer are now seldom seen in the parish of Ardclach, but roe-deer are numerous. The common and alpine hares are abundant; and rabbits have of late years found their way into the parish, and are excessively injurious to the young plantations. Foxes, badgers, polecats, foulmarts, and weasels are plentiful; but the wild-cat is now seldom met with. The otter is occasionally trapped on the banks of the Findhorn, and brown and scaly lizards frequent the moors. The common viper or adder, and *Anguis fragilis*, inhabit the weedy districts and rocks of the river.

Of rapacious birds the most common are the common buzzard, kite, sparrowhawk, ringtail, and kestrel, common and horned owls, ravens and hooded crows.

Black game and grouse are abundant; and heron, partridges, woodcock, snipe, curlew, plover, and wild-pigeons are also found. Wild-duck and teal frequent the marshes; and innumerable sea-fowl and other aquatic birds nestle on the islands in the Loch of Belivat.

Salmon is still caught in considerable quantity, but was formerly so abundant in the parish, that it was common for servants, entering on an engagement with any family resident on the banks of the Findhorn, to stipulate that they should not be fed upon salmon beyond a stated number of days in the week.

Botany.—The woodland scenery of the parish is well deserving of notice. At Coulmony and Lethen are to be seen trees of large dimensions, and stateliest growth, of beech, elm, sycamore, birch, alder, pine, and others, besides extensive plantations of more recent date. Towards the upper part of the parish, along the banks of the Findhorn, scattered remnants still exist, among the cliffs, of the great Caledonian forest of the red Scotch pine. These magnificent trees send forth their widely-spread branches, clothed in the darkest foliage, in a manner which gives them a picturesque character never to be met with in Lowland artificial plantations.

The prevailing shrubby plants of the upper division of the parish are, *Calluna vulgaris*, *Erica Tetralix*, *E. cinerea*, *Ilex Aquifolium*, *Juniperus communis*, *Rosa canina*, *Rubus idæus*, and several dwarf species of *Salix*. In the lower division, where the surface is encumbered by a thick mass of diluvial sand and gravel, the distinguishing shrubby plants are, *Cytisus Scoparius*, *Ulex Europæus*, *Genista anglica*, &c. In the upper division, ferns or brackens form the most plentiful undergrowth in the ravines and precipitous banks. Of these the spreading "bracken curtain," *Pteris aquilina*, is the most abundant; and the elegant *Asplenium viride* is not unfrequent. There are also, where water is stagnant, *Pinguicula vulgaris*, *Trollius Europæus*, and *Pedicularis palustris*. The romantic banks of the Findhorn contain treasures for the botanist which it would be endless to enumerate; and, with very few exceptions, the whole woodland flora of the two counties of Elgin and Nairn might be gathered within the parish. A few of the more rare are, *Veronica montana*, *Milium effusum*, *Melica nutans*, *Festuca calamaria*, *Pyrola minor*, and *Stellaria nemorum*. All the culinary or pot herbs are foreign introductions. Some of the flowers of wild plants were formerly used by the peasants as dyes for cloth; but they have fallen into total disuse.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

A large portion of this parish formerly belonged to the family of Falconer of Halkerton, now Earls of Kintore, who held it at least as early as the year 1295, and continued to possess it till the commencement of the seventeenth century, when they sold it to Grant of Freuchie, ancestor of the present Earl of Seafield, from whom again it was purchased, with a variety of other lands, in 1634, by Alexander Brodie of Lethen, second son of David, Laird of Brodie. Another, but much smaller, portion of the parish has been for centuries in the possession of the family of Campbell of Calder, now Earls of Cawdor. And a third portion, situated on the south bank of the Findhorn, now the property of George Montgomery Cuninghame, Esq. of Fairness, belonged of old to the family of Rose of Kilravock, who again had acquired it, at a period still more distant, partly from the Dunbars of Cunzie and Kilbuyack, and partly from Patrick Hepburn, Bishop of Moray. The remainder of the parish consists of the lands of Mid-Fleenes and Acharait, now belonging to Colonel Gordon of Cluny; the lands of Dallasbrachty and Craigeroy, which belonged in 1526 to James Dunbar of Cunzie and Kilbuyack, and are now the pro-

perty of Sir William G. G. Cumming, Bart. of Altyre; and the lands of Glenernie, which were possessed for several generations by the Frasers of Glenernie, a branch of the family of Lovat, and now belong to Charles Lenox Cumming Bruce, Esq. of Roseisle and Dunphail.

The history of the parish is but little interwoven with the civil history of the county. It appears, however, from some old unprinted Statutes of the Parliament of Scotland, to have shared largely in the troubles of the Covenanting period, and that, after the battle of Auldearn in 1645, the lands of Brodie of Lethen, who had strongly attached himself to the cause of the Covenant, were burnt and plundered by the victorious Marquis of Montrose, after he had besieged without success the old fortalice of Lethen. Afterwards, says the same statute, which was passed on the 15th of March 1649, "the late Marqueis of Huntly and his sones, with twa thousand fute and horse, beseidged the Hous anew the space of twelwe weikes; but, being disappointit and enragit throw the loss of many of y^r men, at last did utterlie burne over againe the haill lands, y^r upon ther was above ye number of eight scoire persons, and left not ten of them to remaine." The same estate was again laid waste in 1653, after another unsuccessful attack upon the old tower of Lethen, by a detachment under the command of Sir Mungo Murray, of the army of the Earl of Glencairn, who then held a commission in Scotland from Charles II., to whom Lethen's Covenanting principles rendered him obnoxious, notwithstanding he had not only assisted the State with loans of money, but had fought personally in the army raised by the Scottish Covenanters for the King, both in the engagement at Lestwick, and at the battle of Dunbar.

Land-owners.—The valued rent of the parish stands as follows:

| | |
|---|------------------------|
| James C. Brodie, Esq. of Lethen and Coulmony, | L. 1268 11 10 |
| George Montgomery Cuninghame, Esq. of Fairness, | 438 19 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ |
| The Earl of Cawdor, | 281 0 8 |
| Colonel Gordon of Cluny and Kinsterry, | 152 10 8 |
| Sir William G. G. Cumming, Bart. of Altyre, | 108 0 0 |
| Charles L. Cumming Bruce, Esq. of Dunphail, | 77 0 0 |

Total valued rent, L. 2326 2 9 $\frac{3}{4}$

Parochial Registers.—The registers of the parish commence with an entry of date 8th October 1648, and are voluminous and regularly kept.

Antiquities.—There is a curious obelisk, situated in a haugh on Glenfairness, on the river side, and about a mile below the old bridge of Dulcie. Characters somewhat similar to those on Sue-

no's Pillar, near Forres, are sculptured on it,* but it is scarcely half the height of the Forres obelisk. The sculpture is nearly the same on both sides of the stone, but in the lowest compartment on one of them are two figures, seemingly in the Highland dress, and in the attitude of embrace. There is no trace of any writing, and tradition describes it to be a memorial of the unhappy fate of a Celtic princess, who eloped with a Danish lover, and was pursued to the birch-covered hill, called the Doune of Dunearn, on the verge of the Findhorn, from which, to avoid their pursuers, they precipitated themselves into the river, and perished together.

On the line of the old military road from Fort-George to Perth, made by General Wade, which passes through the parish, there is the fine old bridge of Dulcie, crossing the Findhorn, and situated in a most romantic spot,—the rocky and precipitous, but deeply wooded, banks of the river, the dark hue of its rapid stream, and the bold arch of the old bridge itself, combining with the character of the scenery around it to form a truly beautiful landscape.

On the summit of the hill of Lethenbar, which stands 862 feet above the level of the sea, in latitude $57^{\circ} 31' 24''$ north, longitude $3^{\circ} 44' 38''$ west, there is a very perfect Druidical circle, and in its immediate neighbourhood are numerous tumuli.

Mansion-Houses.—The only mansion-house within the parish is Coulmony House, the property of Mr Brodie of Lethen. On a tablet over the door is inscribed the date 1746. It is situated on the banks of the Findhorn, and the scenery around is justly celebrated for its highland beauty. The late Sir James Montgomery Cuninghame commenced to build a mansion-house on his estate of Fairness, on the opposite bank of the river; but unhappily he did not live to finish it.

III.—POPULATION.

| | | |
|-------------------------|-------|---------------------------------|
| The amount in 1755, was | 1163 | |
| 1797, . | 1186 | |
| 1801, . | 1256 | whereof 540 males, 716 females. |
| 1809, . | 1186 | |
| 1821, . | 1287 | |
| 1831, . | 1270, | whereof 596 males, 674 females. |
| 1841, . | 1177 | |

The principal cause of the decrease in the population during the last twenty years is emigration. The yearly average of births in the parish during the last seven years is 14, and of marriages, 4.

* See Statistical Account of Morayshire, p. 165.

None of the proprietors of land in the parish now reside within its limits.

| | |
|---|-----|
| In 1801, the number of families in the parish was | 314 |
| houses inhabited, | 314 |
| houses uninhabited, | 5 |
| At present, the number of families is | 299 |
| houses inhabited, | 295 |
| houses uninhabited, | 5 |
| the average number of children in each family, is | 4½ |

The people of the parish are, generally speaking, rather above than below the middle size; and are a strong and hardy race, capable of enduring much fatigue. They are ruddy and healthy in complexion, and chiefly black and yellow-haired; but there are some families whose hair is generally fair, and who were formerly termed “Bain,” “Riach,” or “Roy,” according to the depth of the shade of yellow or red. In these last families, the Christian names of “Sweyne” or “Sueton,” “Evan,” and “Gillies,” has prevailed for ages, from generation to generation, evidently indicating their Scandinavian descent.

The number of insane or fatuous persons in the parish is two.

The language now generally spoken is English; but in the upper or southern district of the parish they continue to speak the native Gaelic, though, within the last forty years, it has been gradually losing ground; and, even in the upper district, the people, with few exceptions, now speak both Gaelic and English with almost equal facility. On the Sabbath, there are two services at the parish church, one in Gaelic, and the other in English.

The people are industrious, and have greatly improved in their habits of cleanliness. At church and market they equal, in decency of appearance, any of their own rank in Scotland. Their dress is home-made, the linen or cloth being usually spun by the female members of the family, or woven by some country weaver. In former days, the men, instead of stockings, wore hose made of tartan cloth, called “caddas,” with party-coloured garters, the kilt, and the pointed or Glengarry bonnet, and brogues with freuchans,—every family being their own tanners, and, generally, their own shoemakers. The dirk, the sporran, and skian-dhu, were worn on gala days. Now, the Highland dress has given place to stuffs from the manufacturer; but the plaid is still retained, and frequently the Highland bonnet. In former times, the shirts in general use were made of woollen cloth called “plaiding,” which has now given place to cotton and linen; but, with the latter, have been introduced rheumatism, and other diseases,

said to have been unknown to their forefathers. In their mode of dress, the women differ little, if at all, from their northern neighbours. In former times, the younger women wore the snood, and, out of doors, in bad weather, a small handkerchief. Now the cap is common among them, and, in many instances, straw bonnets, which bid fair to supersede all other head dresses. The matrons or elderly women wore formerly the "toy," which consisted of two long broad stripes of linen attached to a cap fitted close to the head. Now they wear the ordinary "mutch," which is still preferred by the more elderly women to bonnets, which would be considered by most of them unbecoming their station. Cotton, muslin, and other manufactured stuffs now form the greater part of the female dress of the district; but the tartan, linsey-woolsey, and russet, of the olden time, have not fallen wholly into desuetude.

The ordinary food of the peasantry is plain and simple. For breakfast, they take pottage made of oatmeal, and, in some cases, where it can be afforded, they use tea. Their dinner consists, variously, of potatoes and milk, sowans, kale and brose; and more rarely, of fish or broth, and animal food. A drink, called brochan or gruel, suffices for supper, which, like all their other meals, is generally concluded with cakes of oatmeal, and milk. Living frugally, they are generally happy and contented with their circumstances, and enjoy the comforts common to their station.

The peasantry are kind, obliging, and hospitable, especially to strangers, whom they readily welcome to their simple fare. But they are hasty in temper, and prompt to resent an injury or affront, real or supposed. Family feuds, which were formerly kept up among them, and caused many a broken head at markets and other gatherings, are now fast wearing away. They are not deficient in intelligence, or in moral and religious feeling,—which is fostered by their habit of worshipping God in their families, and giving regular attendance at church.

Poaching in game may prevail to some extent; and smuggling also, which was formerly more frequent, may still take place occasionally, but very rarely.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Number of males employed in agriculture, including farmers, cottars, and farm-servants, is

| | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|-----|
| males employed in manufactures, | - | - | - | 142 |
| males engaged in retail trade, or handicraft, viz. blacksmiths, 4; ma- | - | - | - | 12 |

| | |
|--|-------|
| sons, &c. 10 ; carpenters, 15 ; sawyers, 6 , miller, 1 ; shoemakers, 5 ; tailors, 5 ; tinman, 1, | 47 |
| Wholesale merchants, capitalists, bankers, professional persons, and other educated men, | 9 |
| Labourers employed in manufactures and trade, &c. | 48 |
| Other males not included in any of the above descriptions, | 17 |
| Servants, being males above 20 years, | 34 |
| Do. under 20 years, | 43 |
| Do. females, | 82 |
| | — 159 |

Agriculture.—

| | |
|--|--------|
| Number of acres, standard imperial measure, either cultivated or occasionally in tillage, is about | 3832 |
| Number of acres, never cultivated, waste, and in pasture, | 33,347 |
| Commons all divided. | |
| Number of acres under wood, natural and planted, | 2,732 |

Planting.—The planted wood in the parish consists principally of Scotch fir and larch ; but there is also some little hard-wood. The only plantations of any extent, formed within the last thirty years, are those on the property of Glenfairness, by the late Sir James Montgomery Cuninghame. They consist chiefly of larch, with a sprinkling of common Scotch fir, and some hard wood in the low sheltered dells ; and are extremely thriving. There are several older plantations on the Lethen estate ; and particularly, a considerable forest of fir, called the wood of Dulcie, which is almost wholly indigenous. The indigenous trees are Scotch pine or fir (*Pinus sylvestris*) ; common birch, (*Betula alba*) and weeping birch ; alder, (*Alnus glutinosa*) ; hazel, (*Corylus avellana*) ; aspen or trembling poplar, (*Populus tremula*) ; bird-cherry, (*Prunus padus*) ; sloe or black-thorn, (*Prunus spinosa*) ; mountain-ash or roan, (*Pyrus aucuparia*) ; holly, (*Ilex aquifolium*) ; and willow. Alders formerly succeeded well along the banks of the river and larger burns, and attained to a great size ; but, of late years, they are decaying in this as in other parishes, though the cause of their ceasing to thrive is unknown.

Rent of Land.—The average rent of arable land in the parish is about 10s. per acre. In the upper part of the parish grazing for a cow on inland and green pasture is 12s., and for a stot on hill-ground, 3s. 6d. to 5s. In the lower district of the parish, the ground is more valuable, carries larger animals, and puts them into better condition, and will bring 4s. or 5s. additional. The hilly ground, in the upper district, and the “streens” is the only ground occupied by sheep ; and there the charge for a year’s keep of one sheep is 2s.

Wages.—The average rates of labour for farm-labourers and

country artisans are as follows: ploughmen per half-year, L.5; women-servants, L.2 per half-year, with food; day-labourers, 1s. 2d. per day in winter, and 1s. 6d. in summer; women per day, 7d.; carpenters, 1s. 6d. per day in winter, and 2s. in summer; masons, 2s. 6d. per day in summer;—they do not work in winter.

Price of Produce.—The average price of produce is much the same as in the adjoining parishes. Wheat, L.2, 10s. per imperial quarter; oats, L.1 per quarter; barley, L.1, 10s. per quarter; potatoes, 1s. per bushel; turnips, L.5, 10s. per acre; hay, 3s. 4d. per cwt.; cheese, 4d. per lb.; butter, 8d. per lb.; beef and mutton, 4d. per lb.; eggs, 3d. to 3½d. per dozen in summer, and 6d. in winter; fowls, 1s. each.

Breed of Live-Stock.—The breed of sheep, some thirty years ago, was the old Scotch sheep, having brown faces and legs, short wool, and wide-spreading horns. These gave place to a black-faced Highland breed, with pretty long horns, snow tops, or tufts of wool on the forehead, and an open and very coarse fleece of long wool. This last breed is now greatly improved by superior tups (Lintons), brought principally from Lanarkshire every year, having no tufts on the forehead, a much closer and better fleece, and more compact barrel-shaped bodies. The horns of the wethers, instead of spreading high, keep close down by the head on either side, so as nearly to resemble a horse-shoe. This last breed is much more esteemed by turnip-feeders than the coarse and open-woolled kind; but a few even of the ancient Scotch breed are still to be found, perfectly pure, on two or three farms in the lower end of the parish, where there is not sufficient range for the black-faced mountain sheep. This ancient breed is, however, nearly extinct. The practice of annually smearing in autumn, with tar and butter, each individual of the mountain flocks, has only of late become general in the few and limited sheep-walks in this parish; but it is found to be a great improvement, as it completely protects the animal against the most inclement weather.

The cattle are of small size, but hardy and well-formed, and are well cared for,—the inhabitants having been always remarkable for their attention to cattle and skill in rearing them. They are yearly improving in size and condition by better and more plentiful keep; though, generally speaking, the land is somewhat overstocked. On the whole, it would, perhaps, be difficult to introduce a breed either of cattle or sheep more suitable in all respects to the district than those it at present possesses.

Husbandry.—The improvement in the mode of farming in this parish, within the last few years, is most marked and decided. Previous to 1831, very few of the tenantry followed any regular rotation of cropping. The land nearest their steadings was kept constantly in tillage, receiving the whole manure of the farms, and cropped with barley or bear, potatoes, and a few drills of turnips, which was followed by grain crops, year after year, as long as they were worth shearing. The land farthest from the steadings was cropped with three or four, and sometimes more, grain crops, in close succession, and was then abandoned, to remain for seven years or upwards in a state of nature, overgrown with weeds, and totally unproductive. It was then “tathed” by folding cattle or sheep upon it, broken up, and cropped as before. In consequence of this mode of farming, the tenants, as may well be supposed, were reduced to a low ebb. But their condition has been ameliorated, and the husbandry of the parish immensely improved, by the course which has been pursued in the management of his property, by James C. Brodie, Esq. of Lethen and Coulmony, who succeeded to those estates in 1829, and became resident in the parish during the following year. Mr Brodie has encouraged his tenants to lay off their farms, whether large or small, in regular shifts; and they now follow generally a six-shift course, raising green crops and sowing grass-seeds in regular rotation as follows;—1. grass; 2. grass; 3. oats; 4. oats; 5. green crop; 6. grain, with grass-seeds. To render this system successful it was necessary to supply the tenants with lime, and lime was given them on credit,—those of smaller holdings being employed in carting the thinnings of the plantations to the shipping port of Nairn, and carrying along with them orders for lime, which they brought home to their fields, instead of returning with empty carts. They were further supplied, also on credit, with superior seed-corn, instead of resowing, year after year, the produce of their own land; and, wherever any additional accommodation was required in their houses, new buildings were erected of good masonry, and according to regular and approved plans. The result of this system has been most beneficial. The husbandry of the parish and the condition and circumstances of the tenantry are vastly improved. The old turf hovels are everywhere fast disappearing; the smallest crofter now aims at building his comfortable and substantial cottage of stone and lime; and the larger tenants proceed, as suits their convenience, with the erection of their houses and regular squares of offices, their old houses being some-

times still left standing, scattered and unconnected, and strangely contrasting with the cleanliness and compactness of all else around. Instead of a poor tenantry, largely in arrear, and paying what they did with difficulty, their rents are now regularly paid, and arrears unknown, while they themselves are thriving apace, and feeling independent through successful industry. There is now, perhaps, nowhere, in any upland district, a more industrious and prosperous tenantry than the generality of those in the parish of Ardclach.

Duration of Leases.—The ordinary duration of leases in the parish is nineteen years.

Farm-Buildings and Inclosures.—The farm-buildings, till of late years, were in wretched condition. They are now rapidly improving; and many new steadings getting up, built of stone and lime, and roofed with slate, or sometimes with heather, which, when properly put on, makes a durable and neat thatch. The only enclosures in the parish are at Coulmony, where they are constructed of stone, supplied with iron gates, and in excellent order. The principal agricultural improvements recently made in the parish have been made by Mr Brodie of Lethen, on the mains of Coulmony, and upon moorish ground, on the hill called the Shaw, upon the estate of Lethen, at an elevation of nearly 800 feet above the level of the sea. In these improvements, the Deanston system of thorough draining has been carried into effect with complete success; and a neat and substantial square of offices has been built upon the farm. Much, also, though on a smaller scale, has been accomplished by the tenants themselves, who are now quite alive to the advantages derivable from well-directed exertion.

Manufactures.—There are no manufactures in the parish, beyond a little tartan, and plaiding, and linsey-woolsey, which is manufactured for home use.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Market-Towns, &c.—There is no market-town or village within the parish itself. The nearest market-towns are, Nairn, which is about ten miles from the manse, and Forres, about twelve miles.

Means of Communication.—There is no post-office nearer than Nairn. No turnpike road passes through the parish; but it is intersected by the county road from Nairn to Grantown, and by branches of other county roads, as well as of one of those under the charge of the Parliamentary Commissioners. A great deal has been done of late years in the improvement of district roads,

and making new ones ; but much that requires to be done is still unaccomplished.

There are three stone bridges over the Findhorn, viz. one at Dulcie, one at Glenfairness, and a third at Daltulich.

Ecclesiastical State.—The parish of Ardelach is not made mention of before the Reformation, previous to which era the places of worship resorted to by the inhabitants were two chapels, one at Fairness, and the other at Lethen. After the Reformation, Ardelach is mentioned as a vicarage, of which the parson of Rafford, as sub-chanter of Moray, was patron. Thereafter it became a distinct parish, which, however, it did not long continue, having been united in 1618 to the kirk of Edenkillie, and those two kirks being appointed to be served *per vices* by one minister. This junction of the parishes continued for somewhat upwards of thirty years ; but, during the latter part of that period, it was strongly represented against, though the united parishes were by that time supplied with two ministers. Representations against the junction were made to the two General Assemblies holden at Edinburgh in August 1639, and August 1641, and the last of these assemblies gave in a representation to Parliament, which, however, lay over unattended to till 1650, in which year the parish of Ardelach, as it now exists, was, by Decree of Platt, dated 13th February 1650, for the first time erected, by the disjunction of the Old Parish from Edenkillie, and the annexation to it of the following lands, formerly in the parish of Auldearn, viz. “ the lands of Lethinbar, Fornightly, Fleenesnagall, Achamore, and Achavelgin, belonging to Alexander Brodie of Lethin ; and Middle Fleenes, and Achnatone, belonging to William Rose of Clava, and Hugh Rose, fiar thereof.”

Ardelach, before the Restoration, belonged to the presbytery of Forres. After the Revolution, and the re-establishment of Presbyterianism, it became part of what was called the presbytery of Moray, which existed from 1690 to 1702, and comprehended the whole diocese of Moray. In 1702, it became part of the united presbyteries of Inverness and Forres ; and, when those presbyteries were separated in 1708, it became part of the presbytery of Forres, and so continued till 1773, in which year it, along with Auldearn, was disjoined from Forres, and contributed to form the presbytery of Nairn, which then became a presbytery for the first time.

The parish church of Ardelach is placed in the centre of the

church-yard or burying-ground, which lies in a deep valley or haugh on the north side of the Findhorn, at some little distance above the bridge of Fairness. The situation, on the whole, is perhaps the most convenient that could be chosen. Its distance from the extremity of the parish, on the north, is about five-and-a-half miles; on the south, eight miles; on the west, eight miles; and, on the east, also eight miles; the extreme point on the east being on the lands of Sir W. Cumming and Major Cumming Bruce, which lay stretched beyond the rest of the parish, near the confines of Knockando, and have the parish of Edenkillie interjected between them and the rest of Ardelach. The church was built in 1626, rebuilt in 1762, and again rebuilt in 1839, at a cost of above L.500. It affords accommodation for 686 sitters. The present manse was built in 1744; repaired, and an addition made to it in 1816; and again repaired in 1841. The extent of the glebe is $7\frac{1}{2}$ acres, and the annual value of it L.5.

The present stipend was modified in 1816, (decree dated 4th July 1821), and amounts to 14 chalders victual, half meal half barley, standard measure, with L.8, 6s. 8d. Sterling, for communion elements. In the course of the Locality which followed upon the augmentation of 1816, the Nairnshire barley firloft was more than once experimented upon, with great care and precision, by the late Professor Leslie, under the orders of the Court of Teinds, and was found to be precisely $4\frac{1}{2}$ per centum larger than the Linlithgow or standard firloft.

The gradual advance of the stipend of the parish during the last two centuries affords a curious picture of its progress. When the two parishes of Ardelach and Edenkillie were united by the Teind Commissioners, on 14th July 1618, the stipend of "the minister serving the cure at the united kirks" was fixed at 520 merks Scots, or L.28, 17s. 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Sterling. This continued till 1650, when the united parishes were again disjoined, the present parish of Ardelach erected, and a stipend granted to its minister of 2 chalders of victual, 400 merks Scots, or L.22, 4s. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Sterling money, and L. 50 Scots, or L. 4, 3s. 4d. Sterling, for communion elements. This stipend continued till 1732, upwards of eighty years; but, in that year, a process of augmentation was brought, in which the then real rent of the whole parish was proved to be L. 2670, 1s. 4d. Scots, or only L. 222, 10s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Sterling, and 31 bolls 3 pecks victual; and (by decree dated 16th February 1732) the stipend was augmented to 31 bolls 3 pecks

victual, and L. 430, 1s. 2d. Scots, or L. 35, 16s. 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Sterling, money, including therein 40 merks, or L. 2, 4s. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Sterling, for furnishing the communion elements. In a process of augmentation in 1786, the then real rent of the parish was proved to be L. 543, 8s. 5d. Sterling, and 283 bolls of victual; and, about 1796, the stipend was again raised to L. 85 Sterling, including L. 5 Sterling for communion elements, with 31 bolls 3 pecks victual. Lastly, in 1816, the stipend was augmented to its present amount of 14 chalders victual, with L. 8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements.

The patron of the parish is Mr Brodie of Lethen. The number of male communicants is 49, and of females, 52. The parish is connected with the Nairnshire Auxiliary Missionary Society, to which it contributes L. 5 Sterling yearly.

Education.—There are three schools within the parish, viz. the parochial school at Ardelach, a female school there, and a school at Fornightly; of which the two last are endowed by the Society in Scotland for Propagating Christian Knowledge. The branches of instruction taught in the parish school are, reading, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping, land measuring, mathematics, geography, English, Latin, and Greek; in the female school, reading, sewing, knitting, and sampler work; and in the school of Fornightly, reading, writing, arithmetic, and English grammar. The parochial schoolmaster's salary is L. 36, 7s. 3d. per annum, including an allowance of L. 2 for a garden; and his legal accommodation is complete. The school-fees amount to from L. 10 to L. 15. The female school receives L. 5 a year from the Society. And the Fornightly school receives L. 15 a year from the Society, and L. 2 a year from the late Mr Dunbar of London. The general expense of education at the parochial school is, per year, for reading, 6s.; reading and writing, 9s.; do. with arithmetic, 12s.; Latin, &c. 15s. There is no higher charge. It is not believed there is any young person in the parish between the ages of six and fifteen who is unable to read; but there are about thirty persons above fifteen who can neither read nor write. The people are, in general, alive to the benefits of education; but there are some few parts of the parish so distant as to render it impossible for the young children to attend school. In the remote districts alluded to the population is extremely scanty,—so much so, as to be insufficient either to support a school, or furnish an adequate number of scholars. Increased facilities of education have, most certainly, effected a decided improvement on the character of the people

Literature.—There is a parochial library, and a Literary Society in connection with the parish school.

Savings Bank.—There is no savings bank nearer than Nairn.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The number of poor on the roll is 27, and of other persons occasionally receiving aid, 15. The sum allocated to each of the permanent poor is 4s. yearly. The church collections average L.5, 10s. annually; besides which, there are L.2, 5s. per annum, being interest of a legacy of L.45 left by the late Mr James Dunbar of London, and some trifling casual donations. The poor are indisposed to apply for parochial relief, which they consider degrading, and never apply for but under most urgent necessity.

Inns.—There is only one inn in the parish. It is called the New Inn, and stands on the property of Fairness.

Fuel.—Peat is the ordinary fuel of the parish, and is obtained in abundance in the different mosses, where the people cast it for themselves. Wood is occasionally used, and sometimes a little coal, which is obtained at Nairn at from 15s. 6d. to 17s. 6d. per ton.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The state of the parish as it at present exists, as compared with what it was, very much within the remembrance of persons now living, is striking in the extreme. Till a period comparatively recent, the peasantry and small farmers, forming the body of the population of the district, were in a most miserable condition. They lived in hovels, the entrance to which was used promiscuously by themselves and their cattle, one end of the dwelling being possessed by the latter, and the other by themselves. The dung of the animals was cleaned out at long intervals,—the work being performed by means of a hand-barrow, such as is used by masons, and requiring two able-bodied men to accomplish it. The midden or dunghill was invariably in a large hollow, made for the purpose, at the very door. The dung was carried to the fields, not in “coup-carts,” but in “kellachs” of basket or wicker work. The horses were left unshod; and scarcely any use was made of iron in their implements of husbandry, except for coulter and sock, and harrow-tines, which last were not unfrequently made of wood, and for the iron sockets which pointed their dung-forks. To draw their ploughs they used four oxen or cows, and two horses; or sometimes, six or eight black cattle, without horses. In the long winter evenings, their only light was moss fir, split into

small slips,—lamps being unknown, and a tallow candle so rare, as to be known only as “a white candle,” in contradistinction to the “fir candle,” which they ordinarily used.

This state of things now no longer exists. The people, though many of them in poor circumstances, are, generally speaking, moderately comfortable, and many of them thriving, and rapidly acquiring both increase of knowledge, and the means of independence. They are becoming intelligent in their mode of farming, rearing better crops, doing more justice to the land, and very many of them inhabiting substantial and comfortable dwellings. The causes which have contributed to this amelioration are various. The country has been opened up of late years by the formation of roads; encouragement has been given to the tenantry, and even to the cottars; they have been taught, and have experienced, the benefits of liming their land, and maintaining a proper rotation of cropping, and the evils of the wretched system which they formerly pursued; farming societies are established in the neighbouring towns and villages, at whose competitions they are encouraged to attend; and premiums are given, partly by societies and partly by the landlords, to the tenants and farm-servants, for good ploughing, and to cottagers for the neatest and cleanliest cottages. With all this, a great deal remains to be done; but, improvement having once commenced, and the people being fairly alive to several of the main causes of their improved condition, the prospect for the future is sufficiently encouraging.

April 1842.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

ON THE COUNTY OF NAIRN.

THIS small county is included between the shires of Inverness and Moray. It is bounded on the west by the river Nairn, and on the east by the river Findhorn. The river Nairn takes its rise in the eastern part of Inverness-shire, deriving its sources from numerous small streams that issue out of Loch Clachan, as also from the waters of several small lakes to the eastward of Lochness. The river then takes a northerly direction, flowing through Strath Nairn, till it discharges its waters into the Moray Frith.

South-east of Strath-Nairn, and lying in a parallel direction, is the valley of Strathderm, through which flows the Findhorn, which, among its other tributaries, receives a stream issuing from Loch Moy. The upper portion of the country is hilly and composed of gneiss and granite rocks; the lower valleys are occupied by the old red sandstone, and are of a more fertile nature. The banks of the Findhorn are highly picturesque, and beautifully clothed with wood.

Nairn is the chief and only town of the county. The length of the county from north to south is 22 miles, and from east to west 15 miles, including an area of 200 square miles, or 128,000 acres, of which about 30,000 are under cultivation. It contains a population, according to the census of 1841, of 9218. The parliamentary constituency amounts to 118 voters. The annual value of real property, as assessed in 1815, amounted to L. 14,902.

TABLE, showing the number of persons committed for trial or bailed in the county of Nairn, for different offences during the year 1840:

| | |
|----------------------------|----------|
| Offences against persons, | 4 |
| property without violence, | 6 |
| Other offences, | 2 |
| | <hr/> 12 |

TABLE shewing Ecclesiastical State, &c. of Parishes in the County of Nairn.

| Parishes. | Population in 1841. | Ecclesiastical State. | | | | | | Schools in Par. | Par. Schoolmasters' Emoluments. | | | Annual Amount of Contributions to the Poor. | | | |
|-----------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|---|---------------------|--|---------|-----------------|---------------------------------|-----------|--|---|--------------------------------|--------|--|
| | | Fams. be-
longing to
Estab. Ch. | Individuals.
Do. | Families of
Dissenters
or Seceders. | Individuals.
Do. | Amount of
Parochial Mi-
nisters' stipend | Salary. | | Fees. | Total. | From as-
sessment or
voluntary
contrib. by
Heritors. | From
Church col-
lections. | From Alms,
Legacies,
&c. | Total. | |
| Nairn, | 3392 | 730 | ... | 102 | ... | L. 120, &c. | 7 | L. 40 0 0 | ... | ... | L. 50 0 0 | L. 15 0 0 | L. 65 0 0 | | |
| Auldearn. | 1457 | 260 | 950 | ... | 275 | 16 Ch. &c. | 2 | 36 7 2 | ... | ... | L. 6 0 0 | ... | 22 11 0 | | |
| Cawdor. | 1150 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | L. 170. | 4 | 34 4 0 | L. 12 0 0 | L. 46 0 0 | ... | ... | 25 0 0 | | |
| Ardeach. | 1177 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 14 Ch. &c. | 3 | 36 7 3 | 14 0 0 | 50 0 0 | ... | 5 10 0 | 2 5 0 | 7 15 0 | |



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